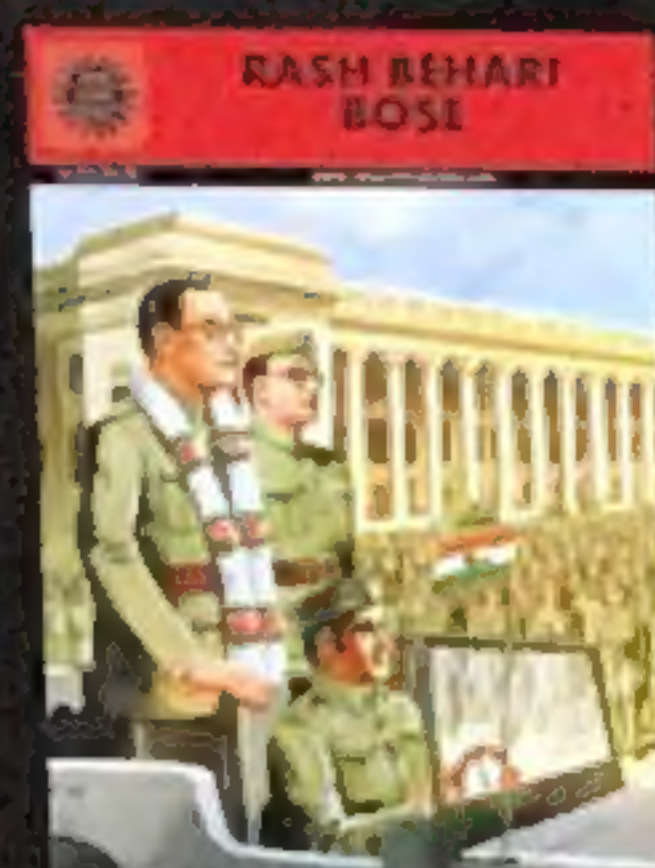


## BHAGAT SINGH

Bhagat Singh sang gustily as he walked to the gallows. Backed by a courageous family, this twenty-three-year-old firebrand was wedded to death. A free India was his heaven, and the martyrs of the freedom struggle were his gods. Using disguise and guile, persuasion and force, his life was a roller-coaster ride through an unjust system. But eventually, he awakened India and the world to the idea of liberty, and brought the mighty British Raj to its knees.

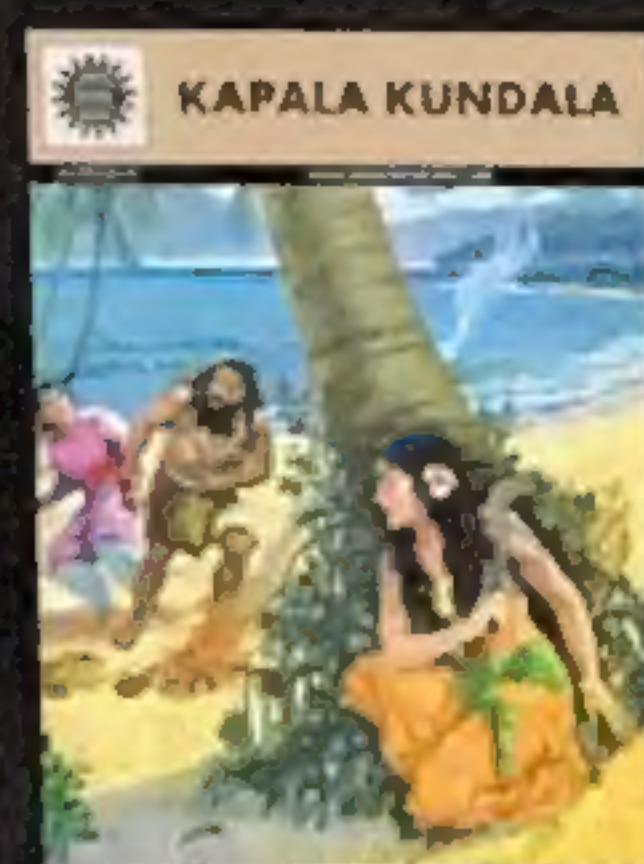
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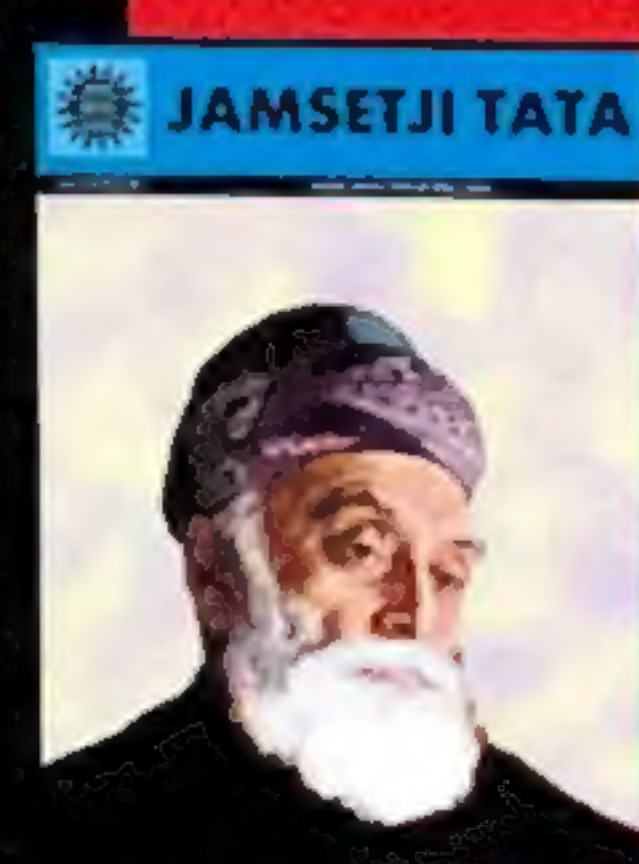
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BRAVEHEARTS



# BHAGAT SINGH

THE CHEERFUL YOUNG MARTYR

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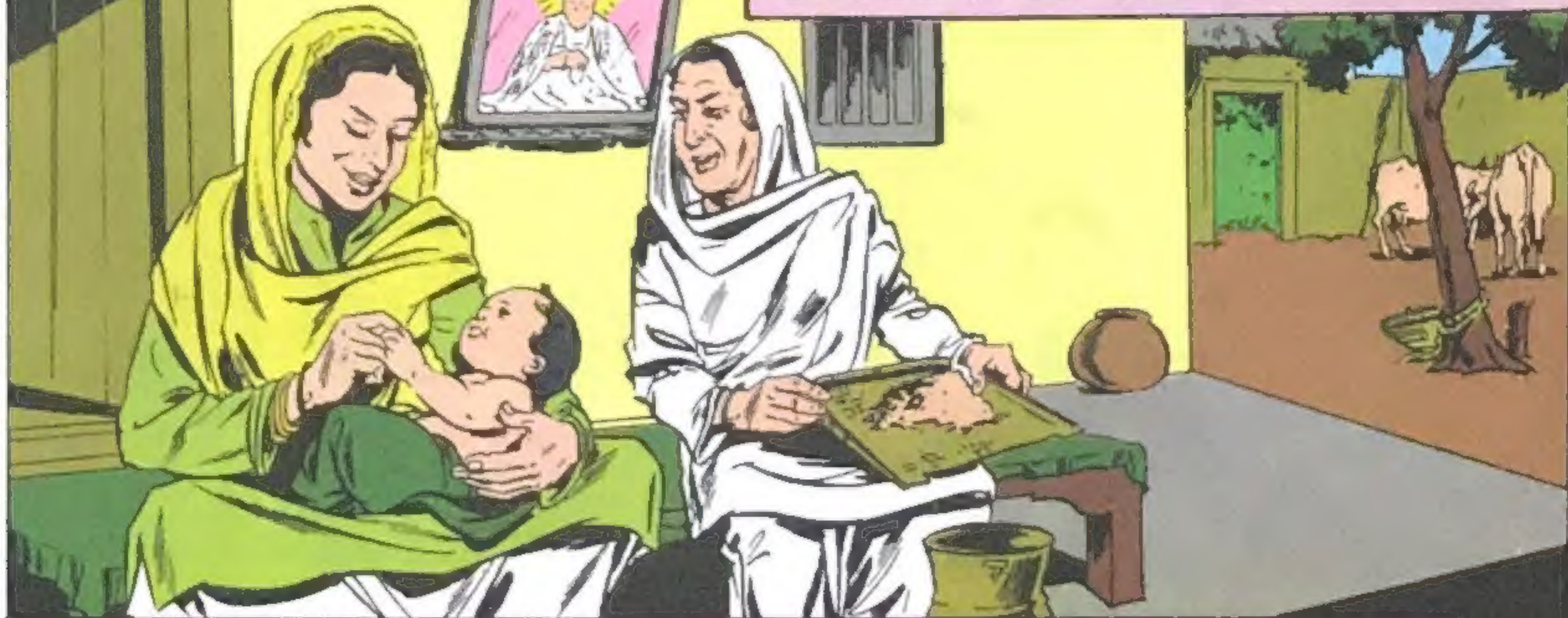
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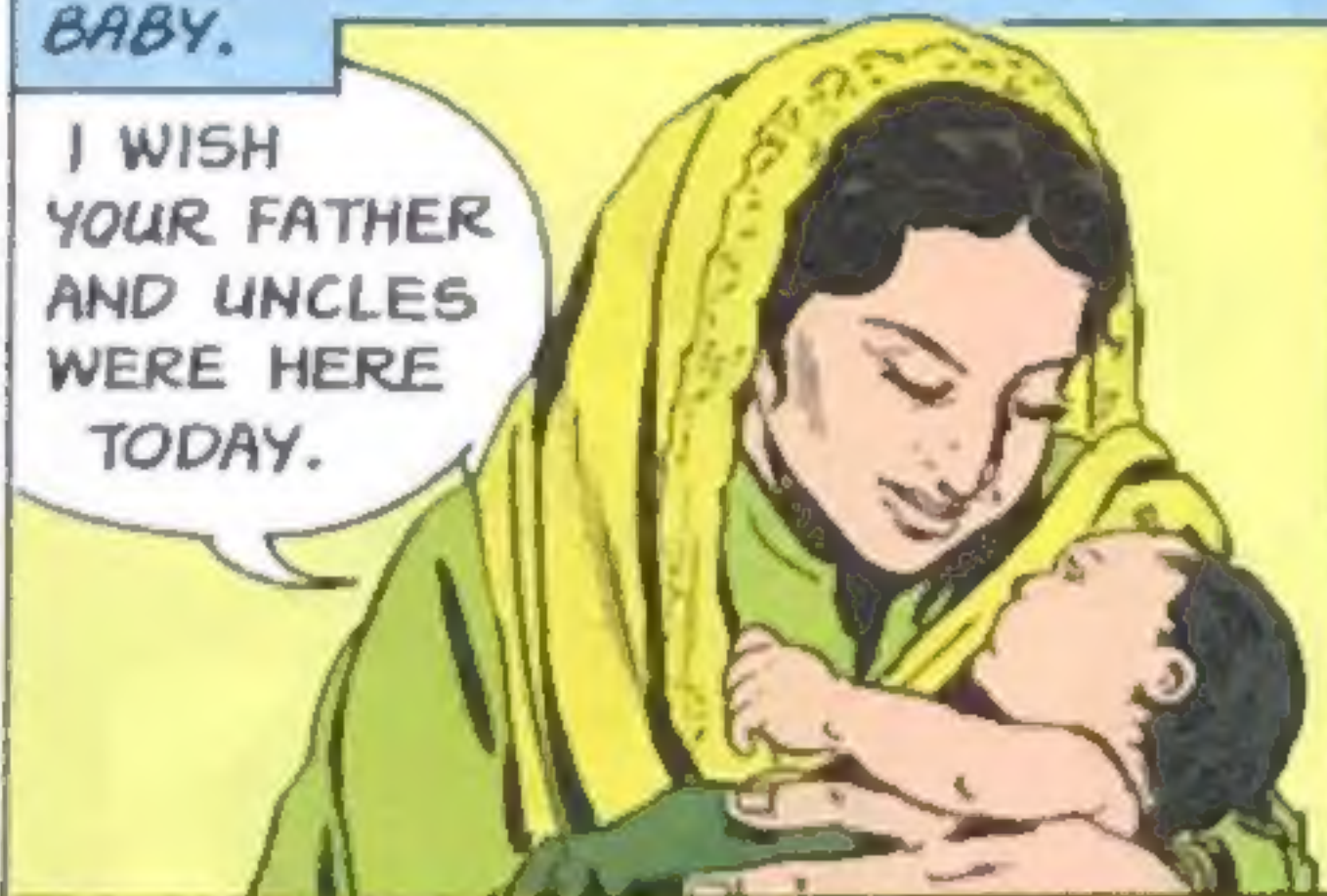
# BHAGAT SINGH



SEPTEMBER 27, 1907: IN THE VILLAGE OF BANGA, NEAR LAHORE, THE BIRTH OF A BABY BROUGHT JOY TO THE OTHERWISE GLOOMY HOUSEHOLD OF SARDAR KISHAN SINGH.

VIDYAVATI LOOKED FONDLY AT HER BABY.

I WISH YOUR FATHER AND UNCLES WERE HERE TODAY.



VIDYAVATI'S HUSBAND, KISHAN SINGH, AND HIS TWO BROTHERS WERE THEN IN JAIL FOR OPPOSING THE BRITISH RULE IN INDIA.

SOON AFTER—

KISHAN!

MOTHER!



KISHAN SINGH AND HIS YOUNGEST BROTHER, SWARAN SINGH, COULD COME HOME BECAUSE THEY WERE RELEASED ON BAIL.

IF ONLY AJIT, TOO, WERE HERE WITH US!



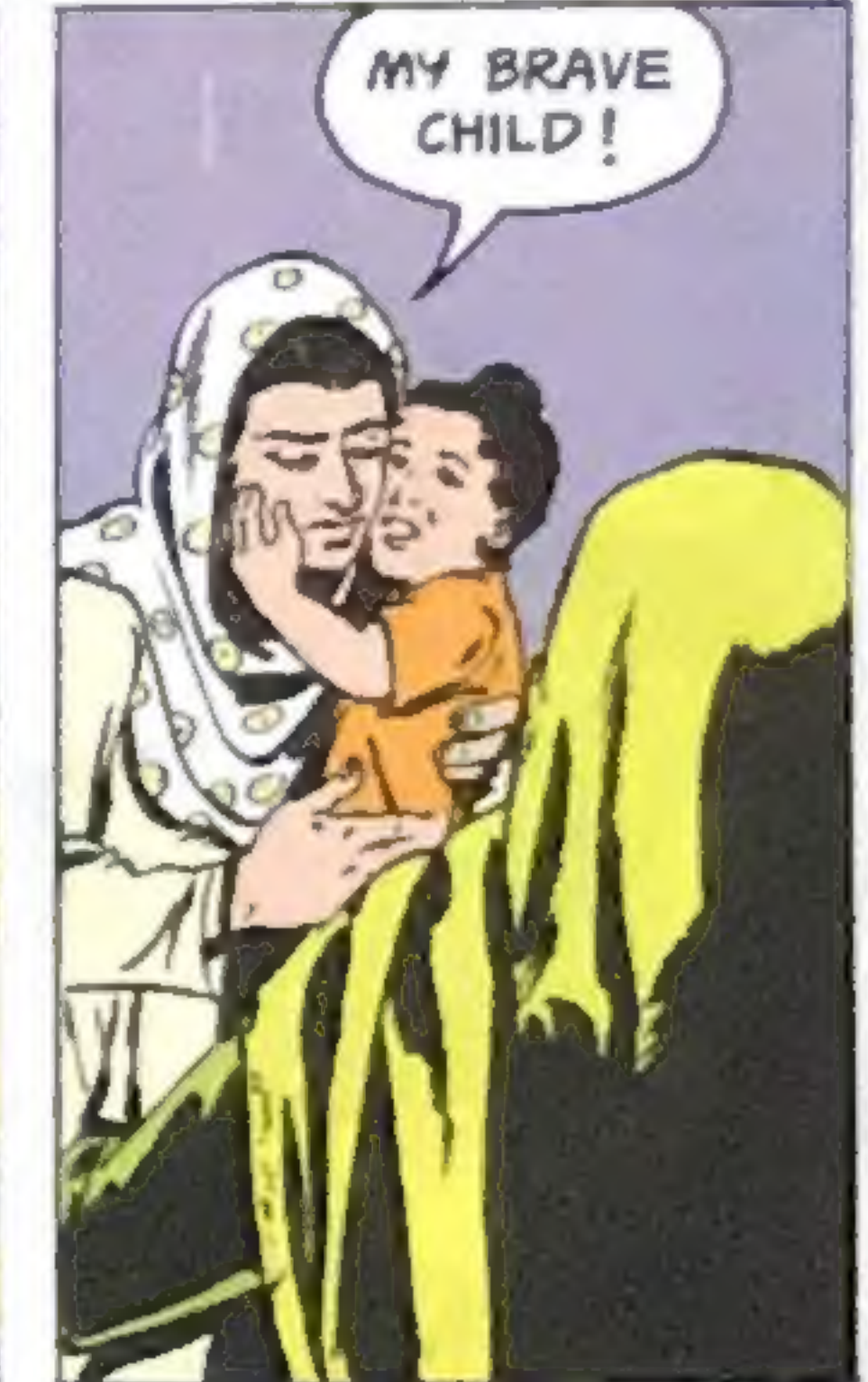
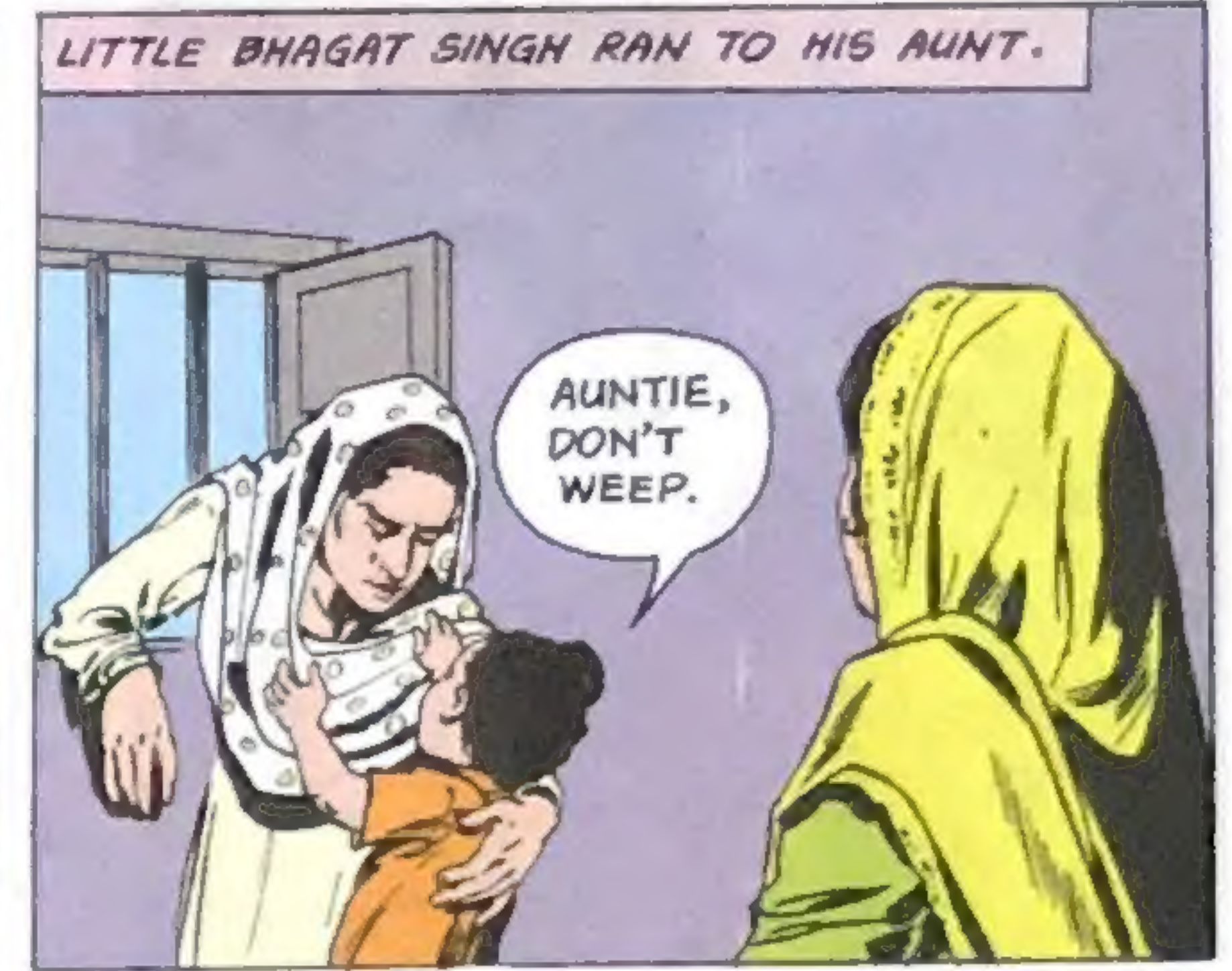
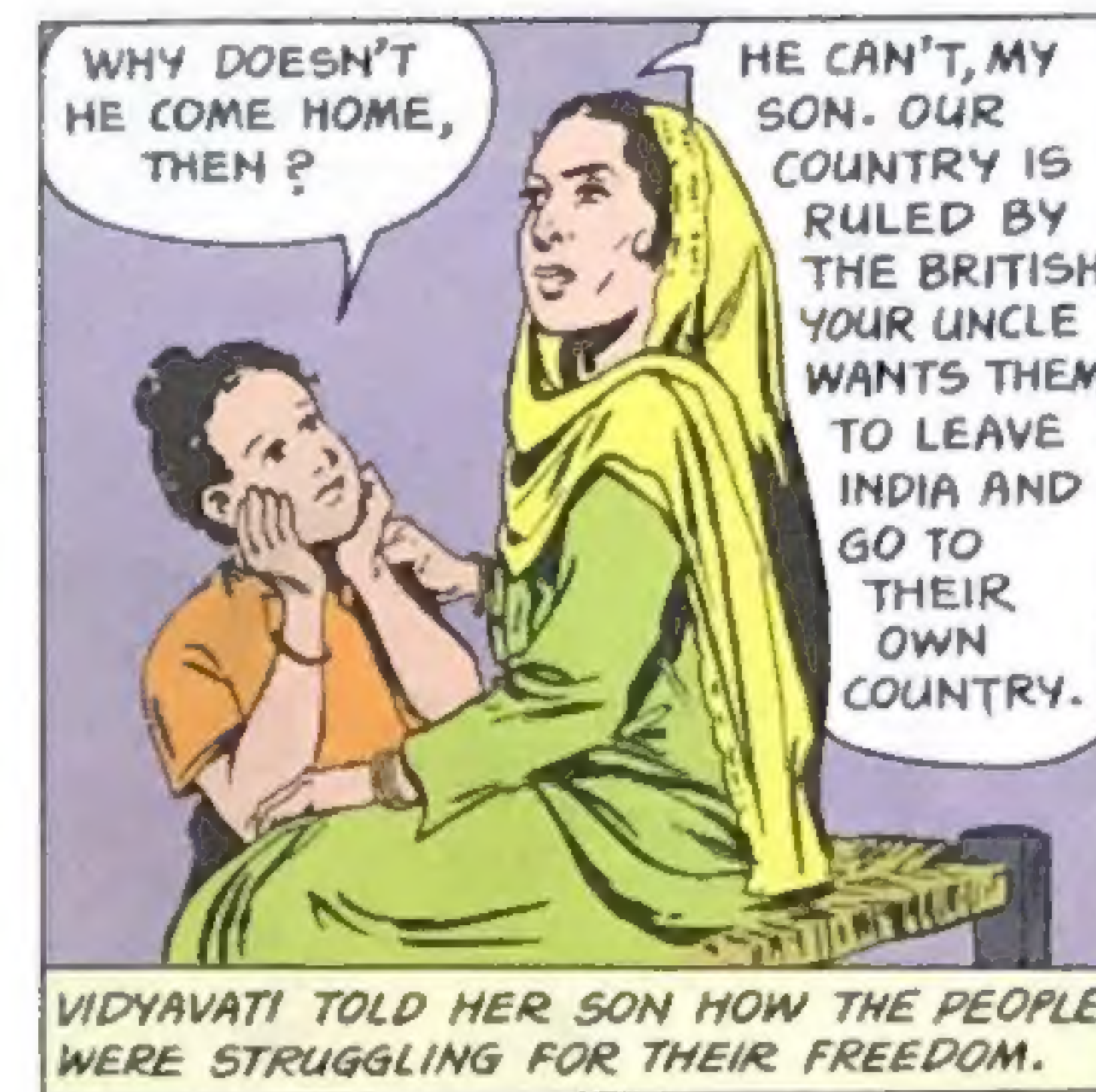
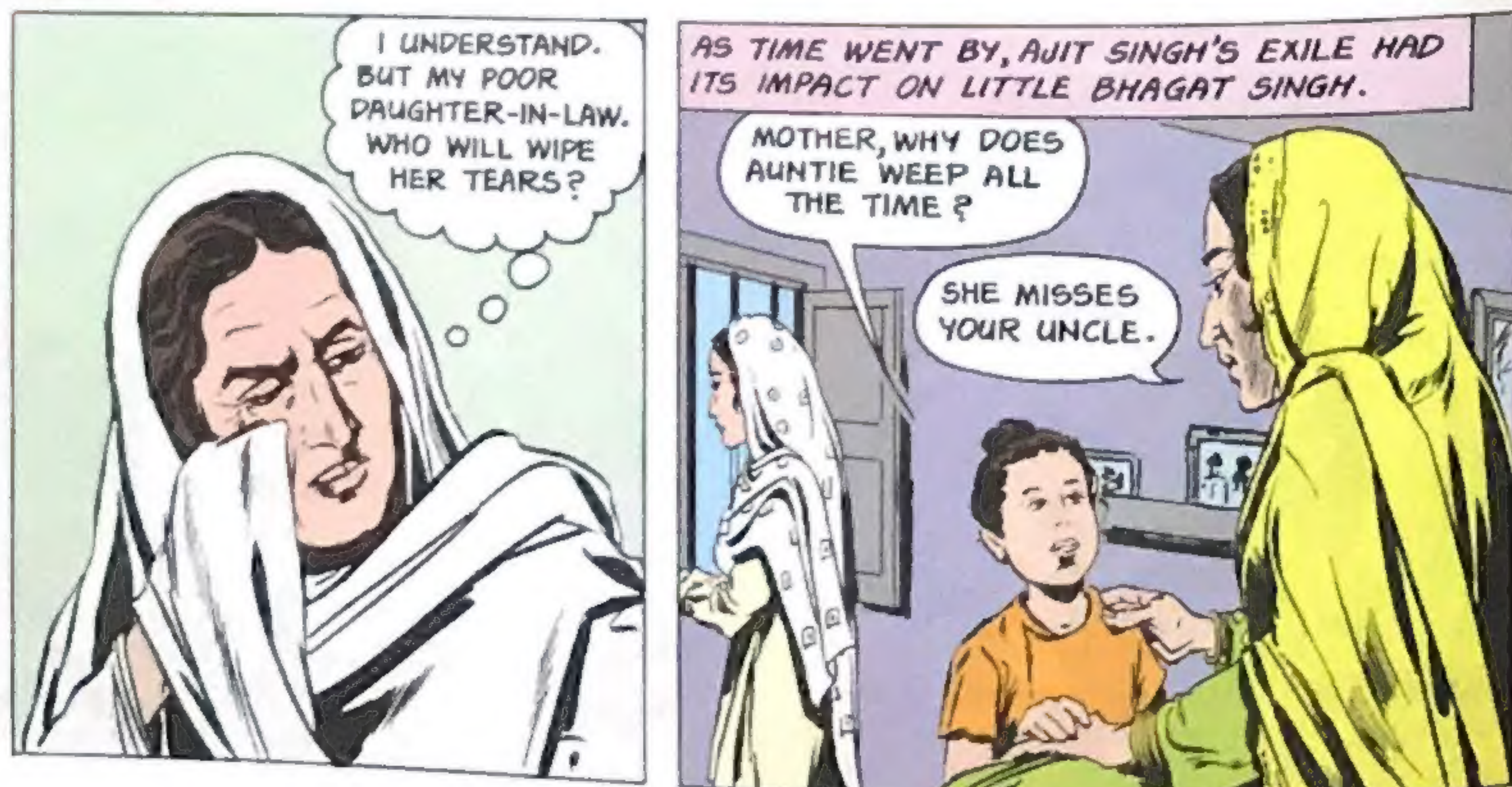
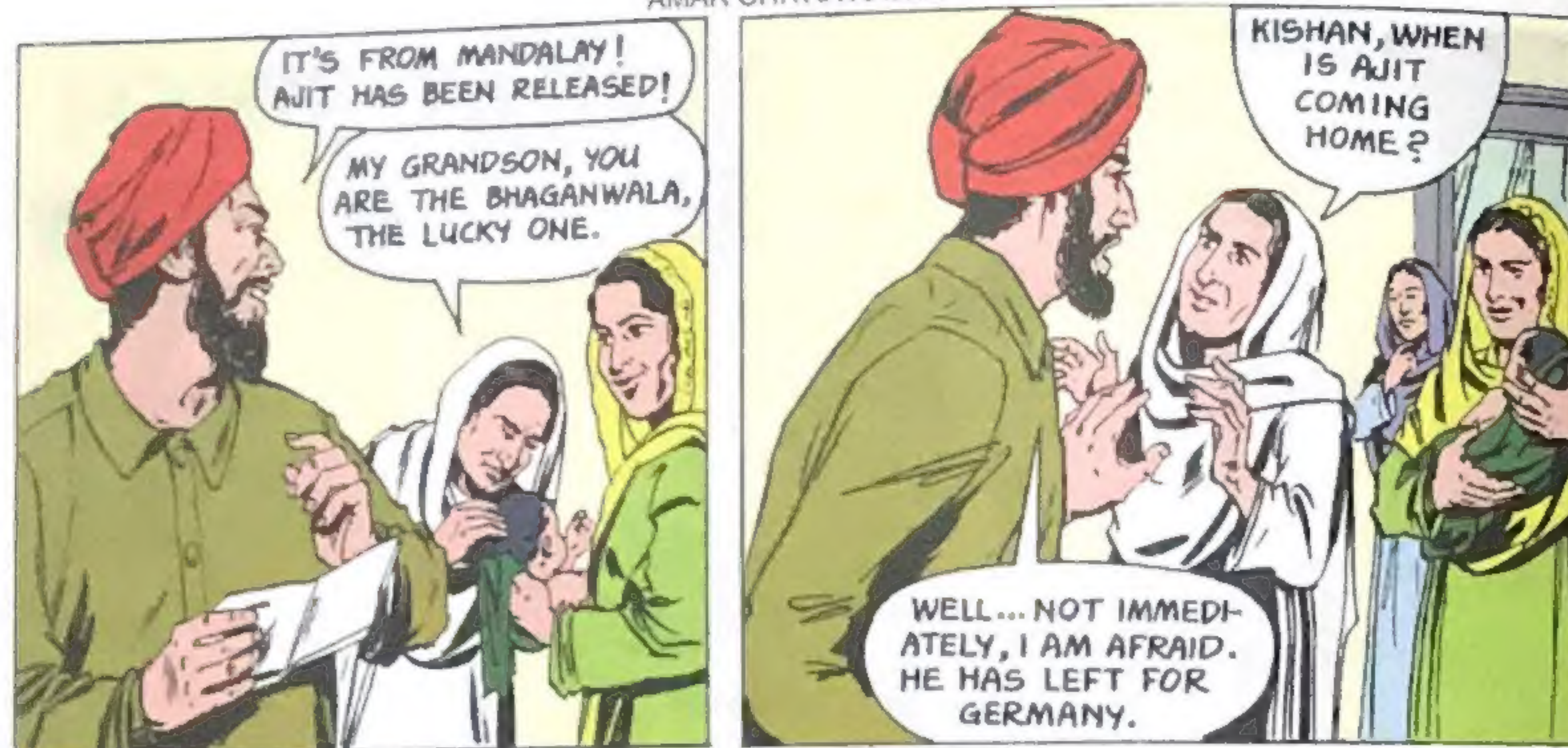
AJIT SINGH, THE SECOND BROTHER WAS SERVING A SENTENCE IN THE MANDALAY JAIL IN BURMA.

JUST THEN —

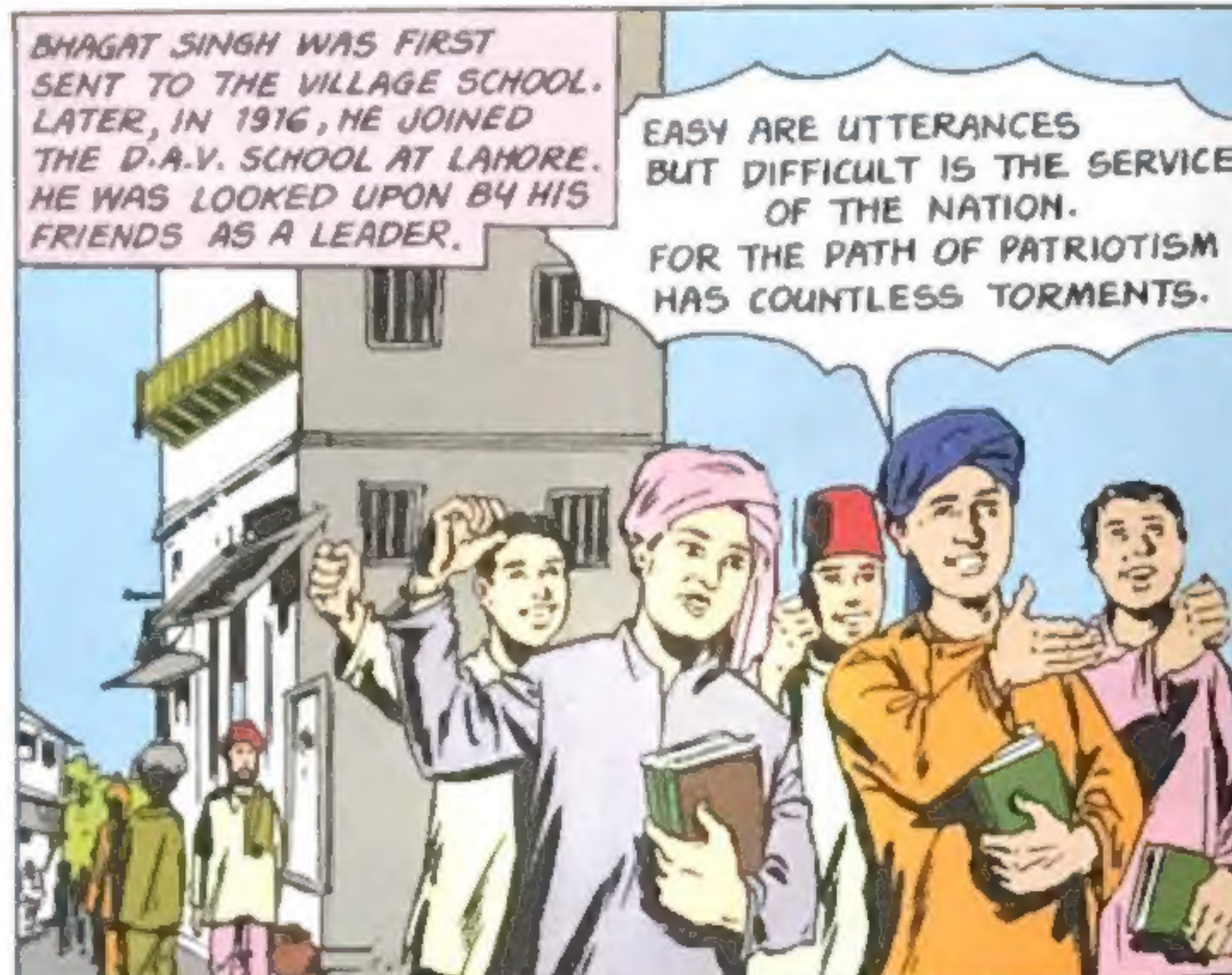
A TELEGRAM, SIR.







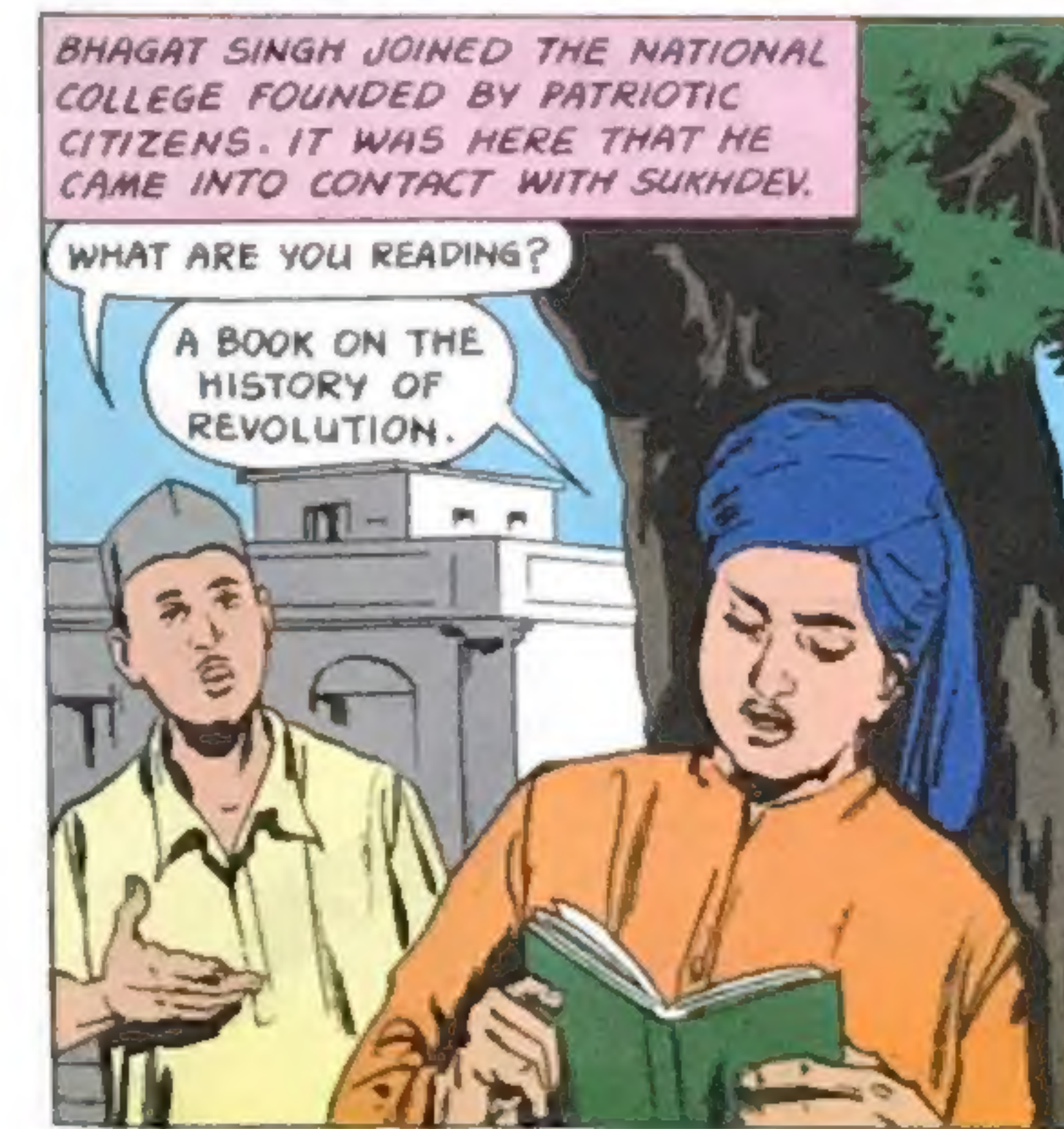
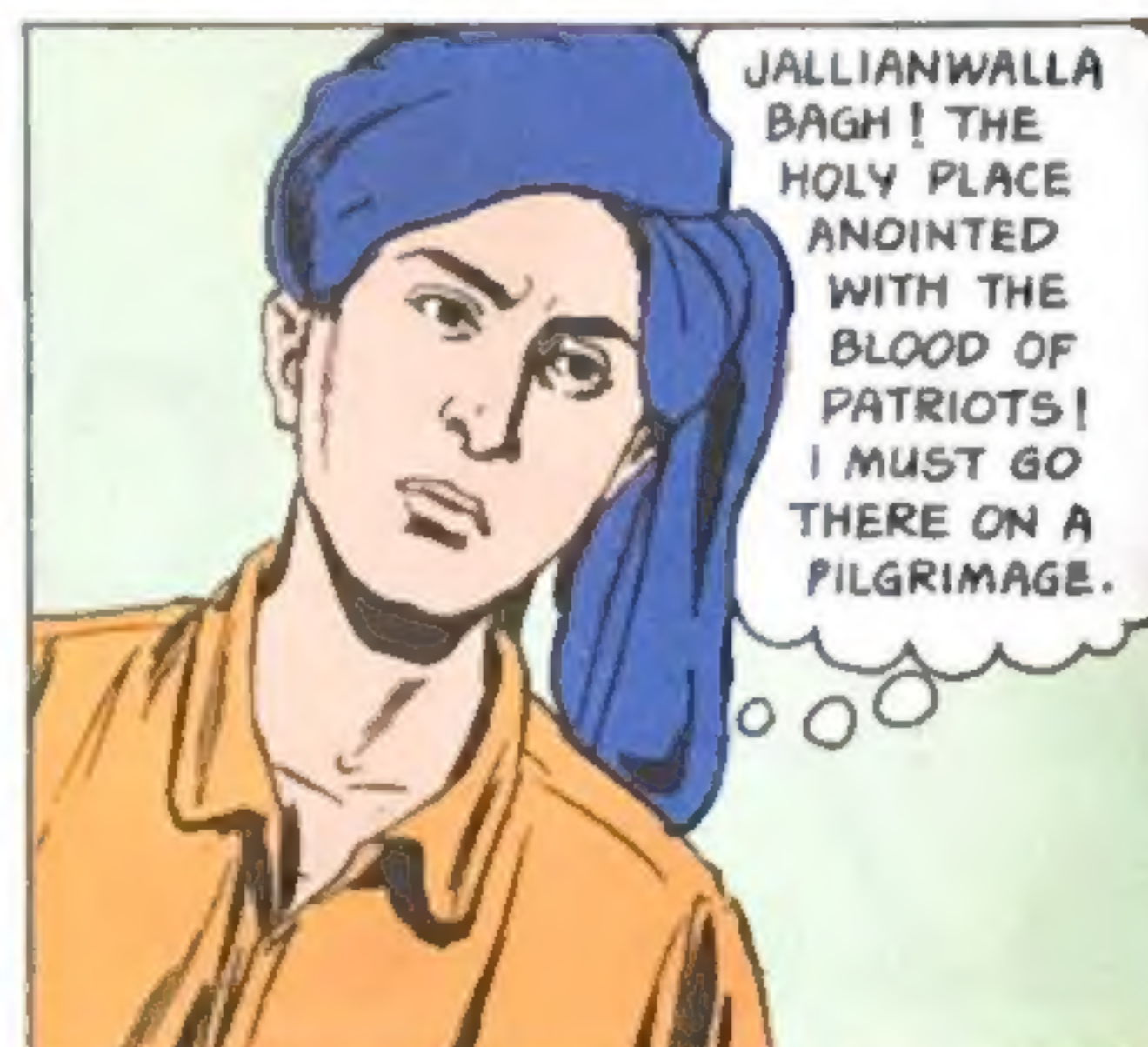
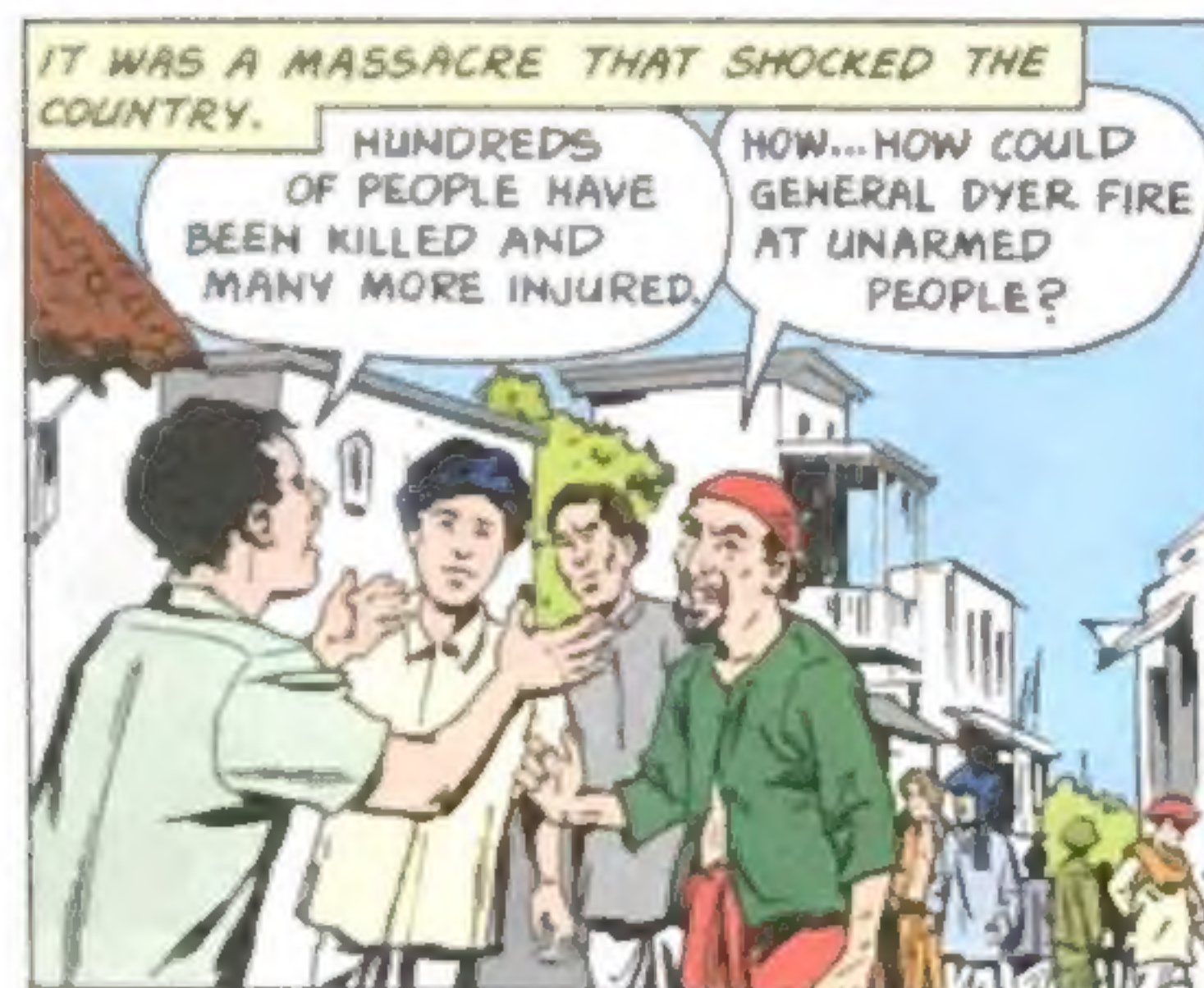




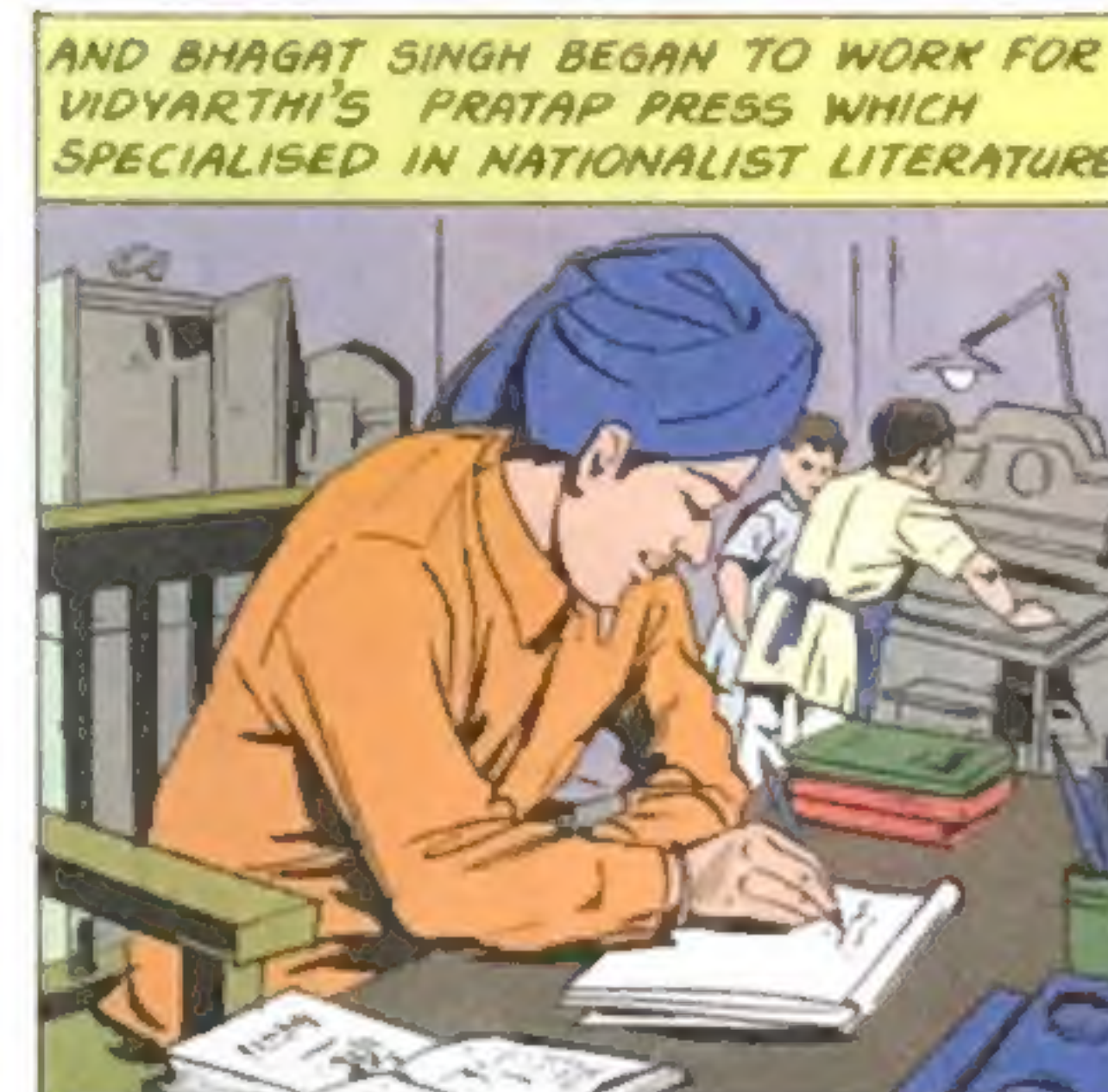
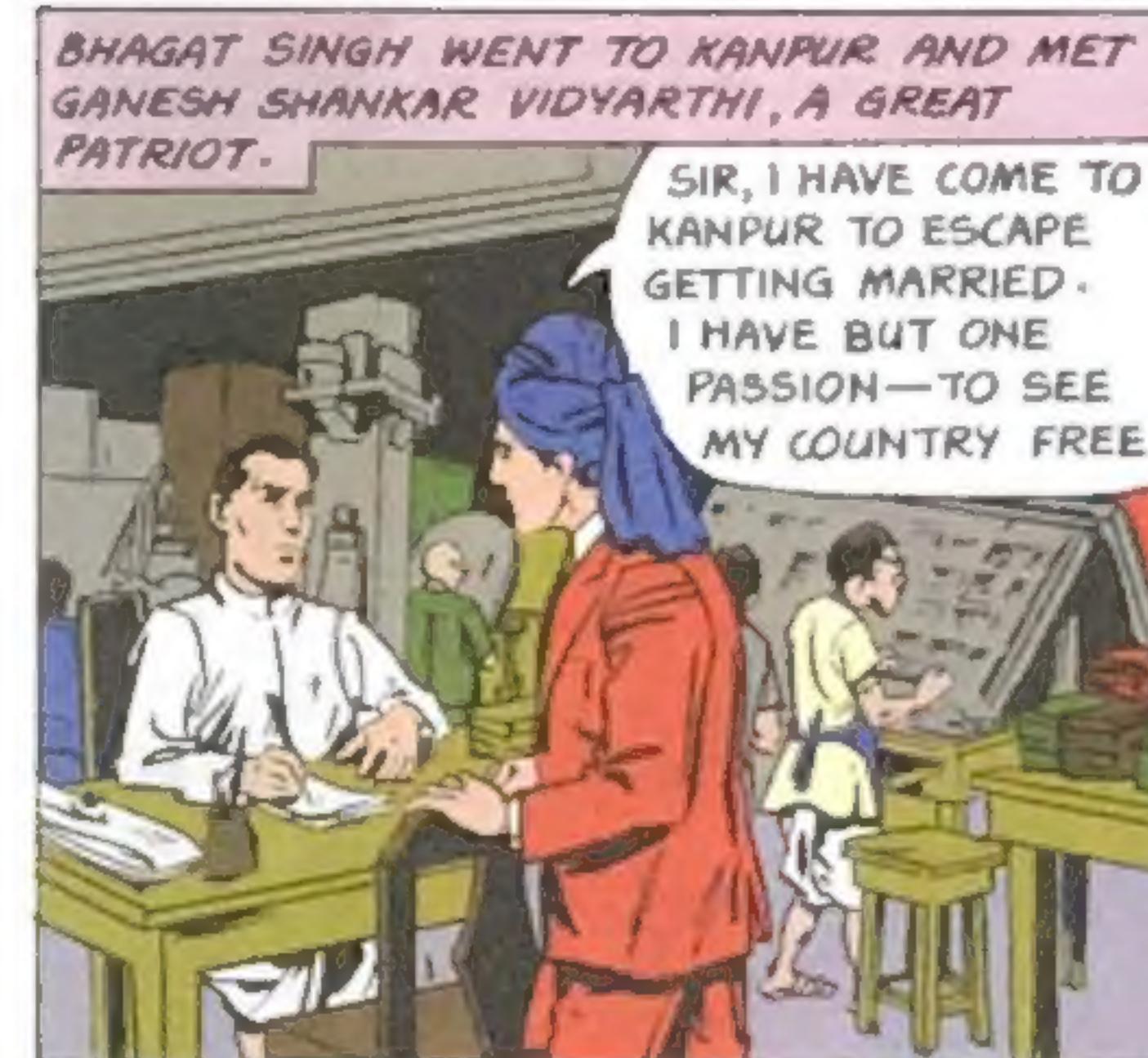
IN 1919, WHEN BHAGAT SINGH WAS TWELVE YEARS OLD, THE GOVERNMENT PASSED THE INFAMOUS ROWLATT ACT.



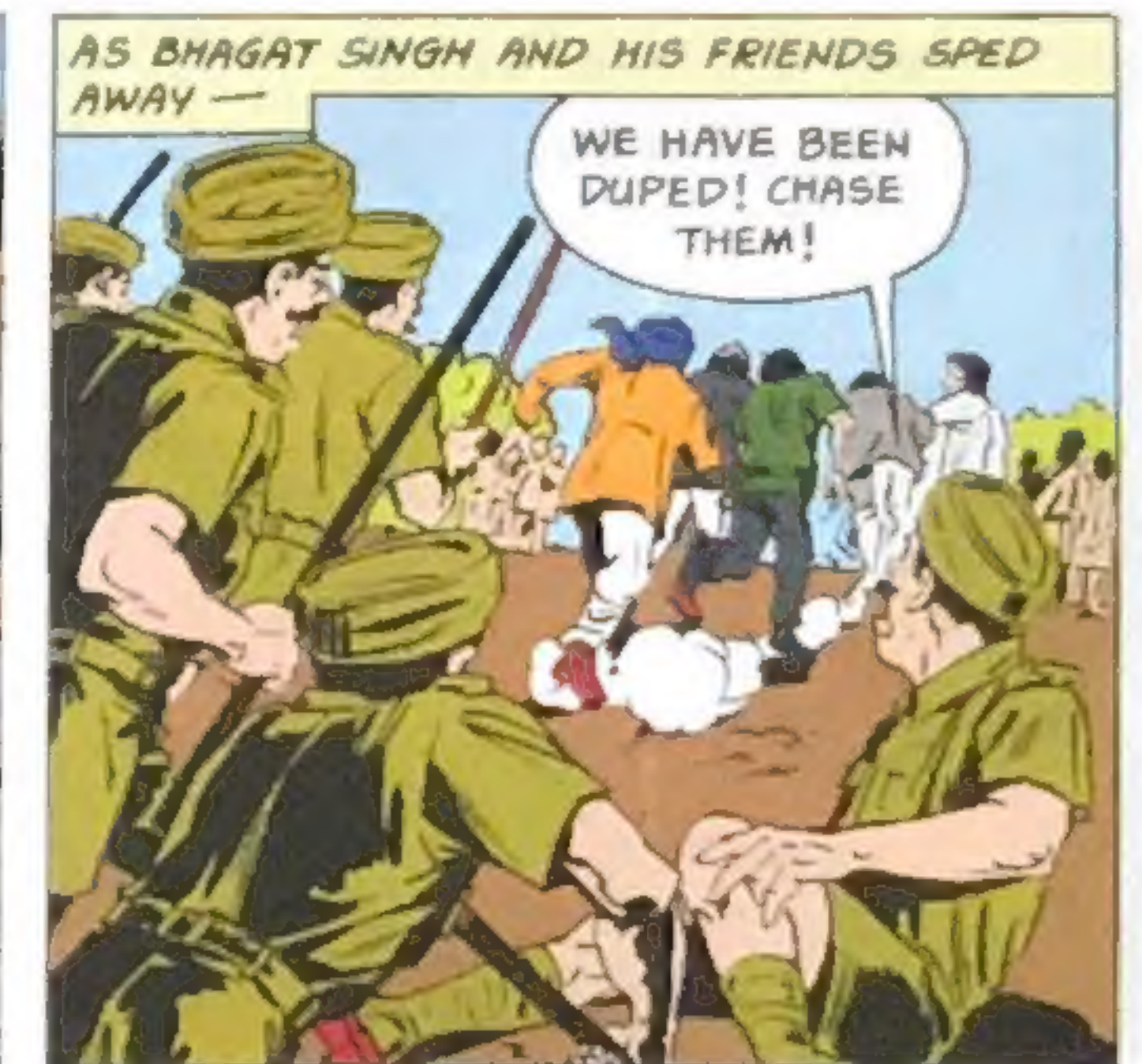












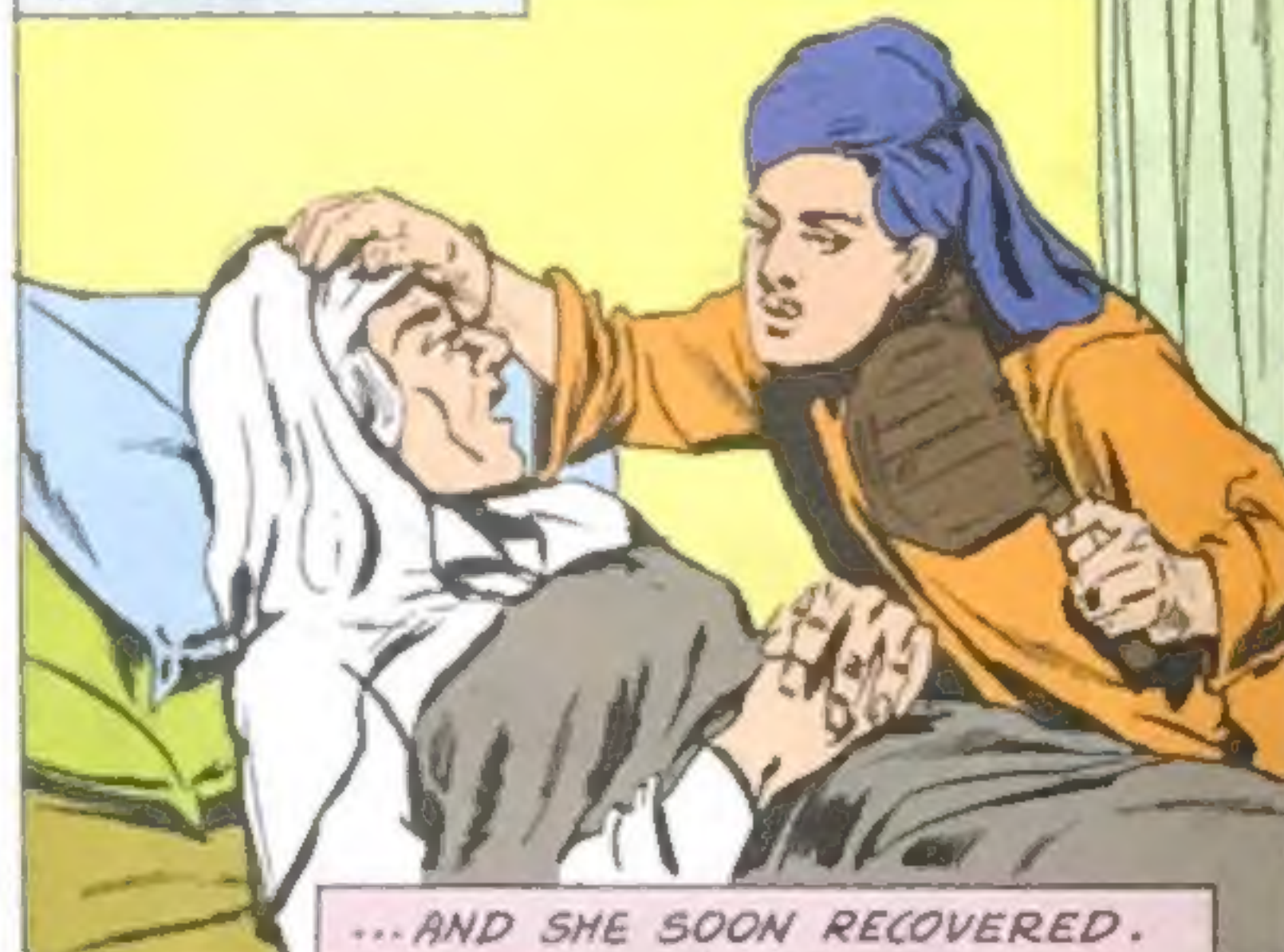


BHAGAT SINGH'S STAY IN KANPUR CAME TO AN ABRUPT END. HE HAD TO LEAVE FOR LAHORE. HIS GRANDMOTHER WAS SERIOUSLY ILL.



YOU CAN GO HOME WITHOUT HESITATION. YOUR FATHER HAS SENT WORD THAT YOU WILL NOT BE ASKED TO GET MARRIED.

BHAGAT SINGH RETURNED TO LAHORE AND NURSED HIS GRANDMOTHER WITH GREAT CARE AND LOVE ...



...AND SHE SOON RECOVERED.

THOSE WERE THE DAYS WHEN THE SIKHS HAD LAUNCHED A PROTEST MOVEMENT AGAINST THE BRITISH FOR DEPOSING RIPUDAMAN SINGH, THE MAHARAJA OF NABHA.

BHAGAT, SOME SIKH JATHAS ON THEIR MARCH TO JAITO WILL BE STOPPING AT OUR VILLAGE. I WANT YOU TO LOOK AFTER THEIR COMFORTS.



I WILL LEAVE FOR BANGA IMMEDIATELY.

AT THE VILLAGE, HOWEVER —

IF WE HONOUR THE SIKH JATHAS, WE WILL BE INVITING THE WRATH OF THE GOVERNMENT.

THAT SHOULD NOT DETER US FROM OFFERING OUR HOSPITALITY TO THE GUESTS, UNCLE.



BHAGAT SINGH HAD HIS WAY. LATER —



GOD BLESS YOU, SON. YOU HAVE TAKEN GREAT PAINS TO MAKE OUR STAY COMFORTABLE.

BUT THE GOVERNMENT, AS EXPECTED, WAS ANNOYED.

YOU'D BETTER RUN, BROTHER. WARRANTS HAVE BEEN ISSUED FOR YOUR ARREST.

THANK YOU FOR THE TIP.



BHAGAT SINGH FLED TO LAHORE.

AT LAHORE, BHAGAT SINGH AND HIS FRIENDS FORMED AN ASSOCIATION CALLED "NAV JAWAN BHARAT SABHA".

I PROMISE TO PLACE THE INTERESTS OF MY COUNTRY ABOVE THOSE OF MY COMMUNITY...



THE SABHA WORKED FOR PATRIOTIC CAUSES LIKE THE SWADESHI MOVEMENT.

THE SABHA OBSERVED MARTYRS' DAY IN MEMORY OF RAMPRASAD BISMIL, ASHFAQULLAH KHAN AND OTHER REVOLUTIONARIES WHO HAD BEEN HANGED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

BISMILJI AND ASHFAQULLAH DIED AT THE GALLOWS, SMILING. OUR HOMAGE TO THEM CAN ONLY BE IN CARRYING ON THEIR FIGHT FOR FREEDOM.



IN SEPTEMBER 1928, REVOLUTIONARIES FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF INDIA MET IN DELHI. CHANDRA SHEKHAR AZAD, THE HEAD OF THE HINDUSTAN REPUBLICAN ASSOCIATION, INITIATED THE DISCUSSION.

THE COUNTRY IS RESTLESS. FREEDOM IS TO BE WON, NOT TO BE BEGGED FOR. WE MUST ORGANISE OURSELVES ON A WAR FOOTING.

I AGREE WITH YOU, AZAD.

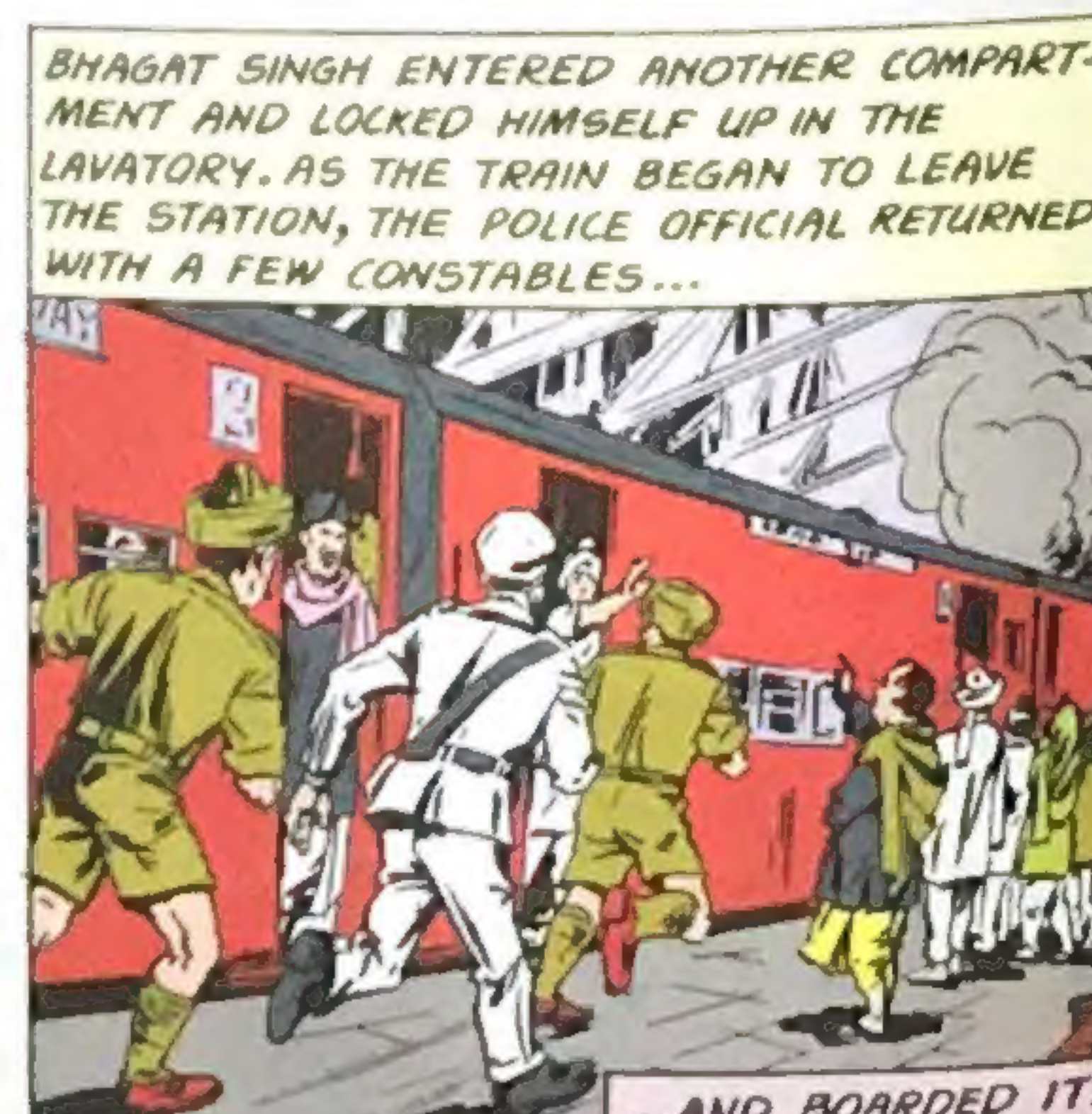


AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING —

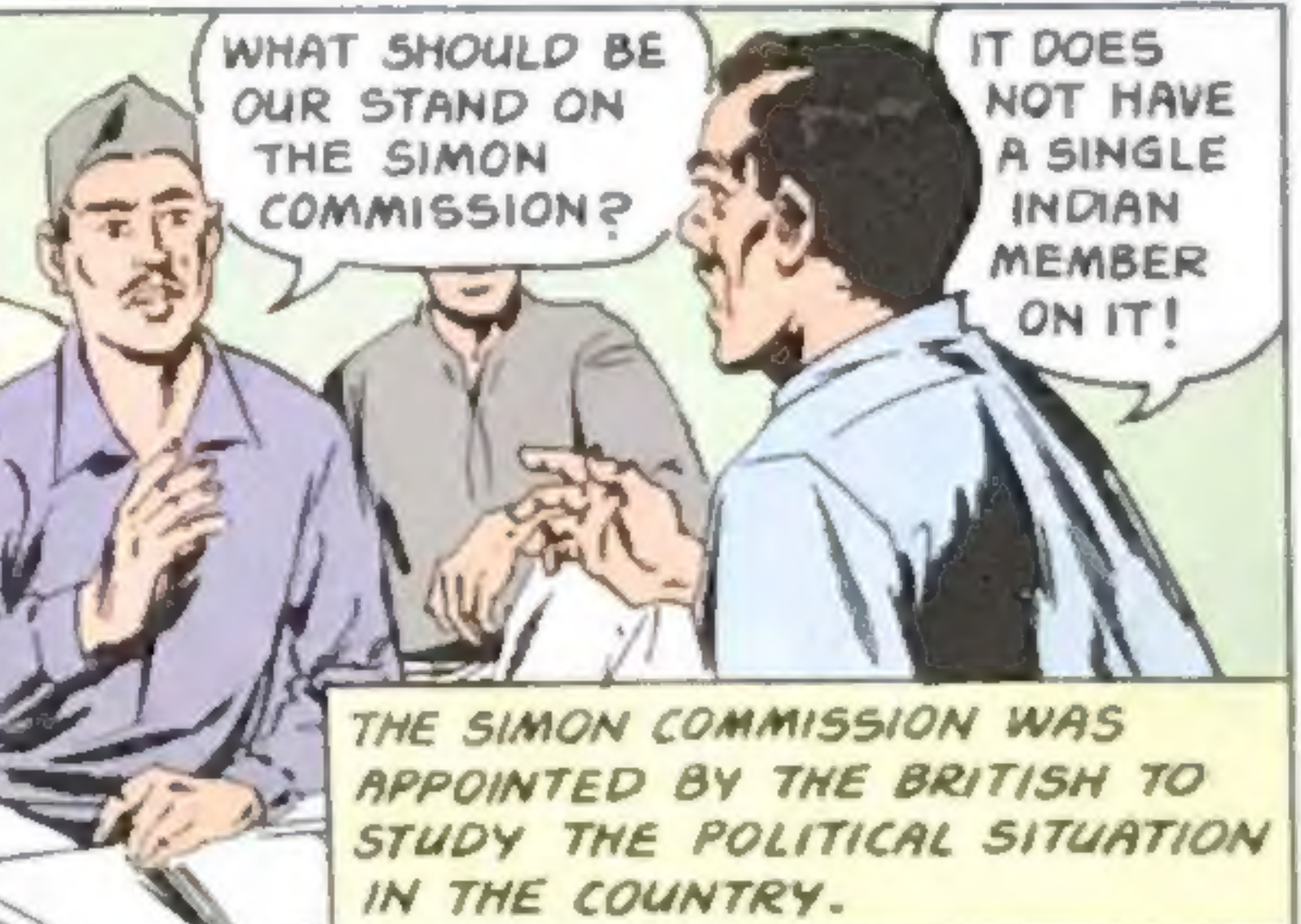
NOW LET'S DISPERSE. WE MUST BE CAREFUL. THE POLICE KNOW THAT WE ARE MEETING IN DELHI ALTHOUGH THEY DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHERE.







LITTLE DID THEY REALISE THAT THE MAN THEY WERE LOOKING FOR WAS SEATED RIGHT THERE WITH A COPY OF THE GITA IN HIS HAND.





A POLICE PARTY STOPPED THE PROCESSION NEAR THE RAILWAY STATION.



BUT LALAJI MARCHED AHEAD. THEN THE POLICE RESORTED TO A LATHI CHARGE.



IT IS BARBAROUS TO ATTACK UNARMED, AND NON-VIOLENT PEOPLE.

ONE LATHI CAME DOWN ON THE UMBRELLA WHICH LALAJI WAS HOLDING.



BHAGAT SINGH AND HIS COMRADES THREW A CORDON ROUND LALAJI. YET HE WAS HIT ON HIS SHOULDER AND CHEST.



LATER IN THE EVENING —

DO YOU KNOW WHAT LALAJI SAID?

YES, I DO. THE LION OF THE PUNJAB ROARED: I DECLARE THAT EVERY BLOW THEY HURLED AT US DROVE ONE MORE NAIL INTO THE COFFIN OF THE EMPIRE.



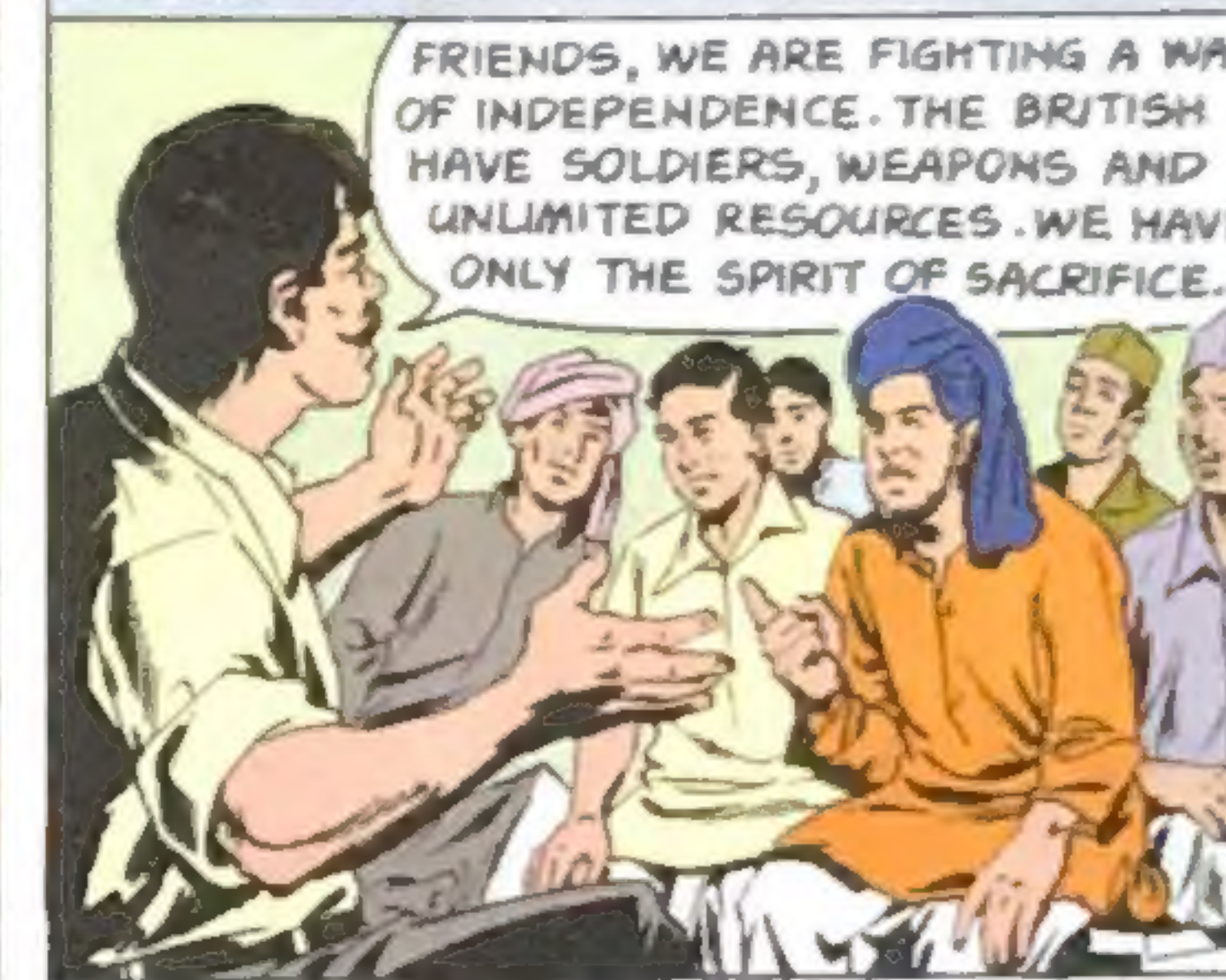
LALAJI NEVER RECOVERED FROM THE BLOWS HE RECEIVED. HE DIED TWO WEEKS LATER.



LALAJI'S NON-VIOLENCE WAS REWARDED WITH FATAL BLOWS.

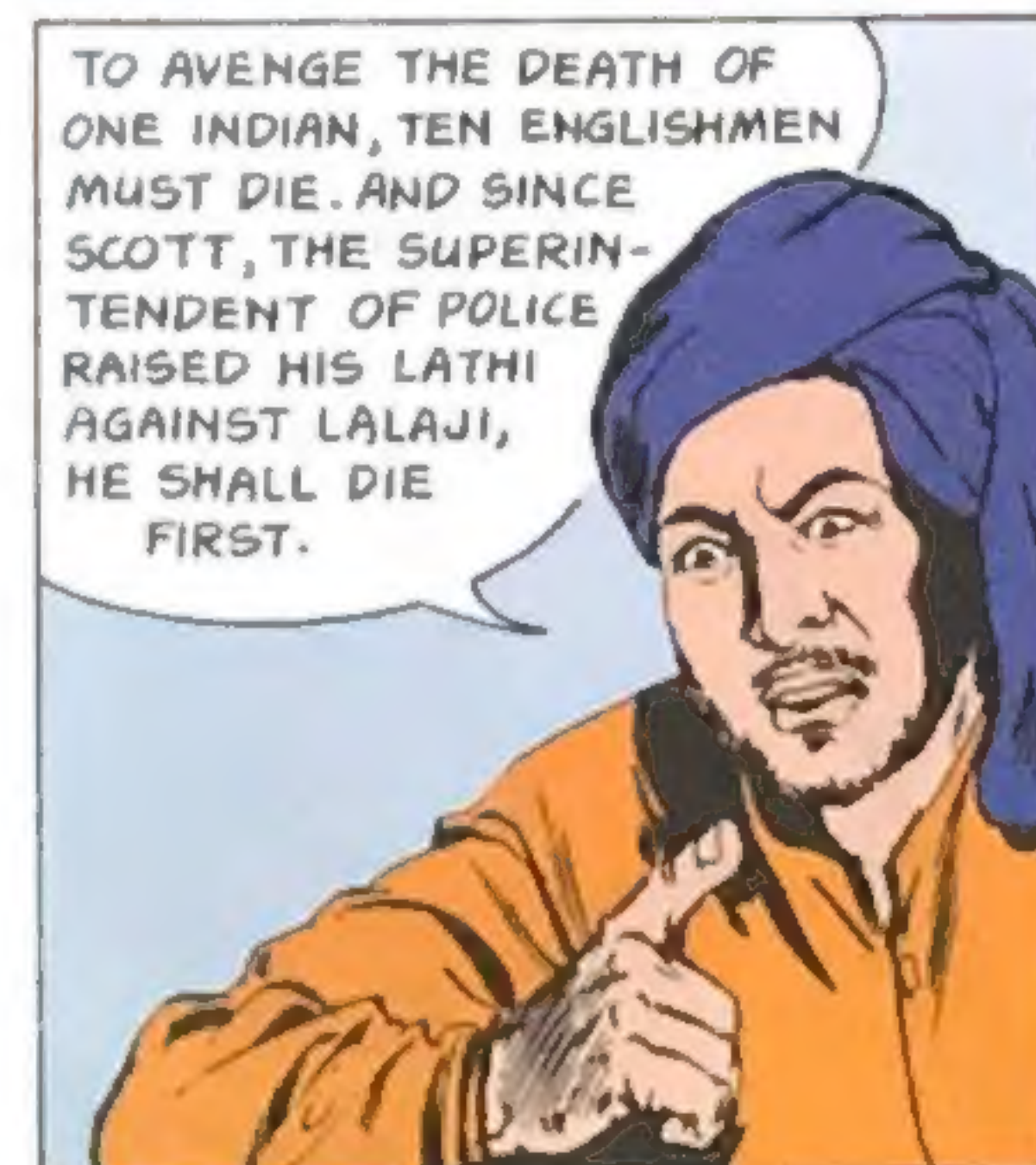
THIS GOVERNMENT UNDERSTANDS ONLY ONE LANGUAGE—BLOOD FOR BLOOD.

CHANDRA SHEKHAR AZAD NOW ARRIVED IN LAHORE TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR REVENGE.



FRIENDS, WE ARE FIGHTING A WAR OF INDEPENDENCE. THE BRITISH HAVE SOLDIERS, WEAPONS AND UNLIMITED RESOURCES. WE HAVE ONLY THE SPIRIT OF SACRIFICE.

TO AVENGE THE DEATH OF ONE INDIAN, TEN ENGLISHMEN MUST DIE. AND SINCE SCOTT, THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE RAISED HIS LATHI AGAINST LALAJI, HE SHALL DIE FIRST.



ON DECEMBER 17, 1928, BHAGAT SINGH AND HIS COMRADE, RAJGURU TOOK THEIR POSITIONS NEAR THE POLICE STATION.



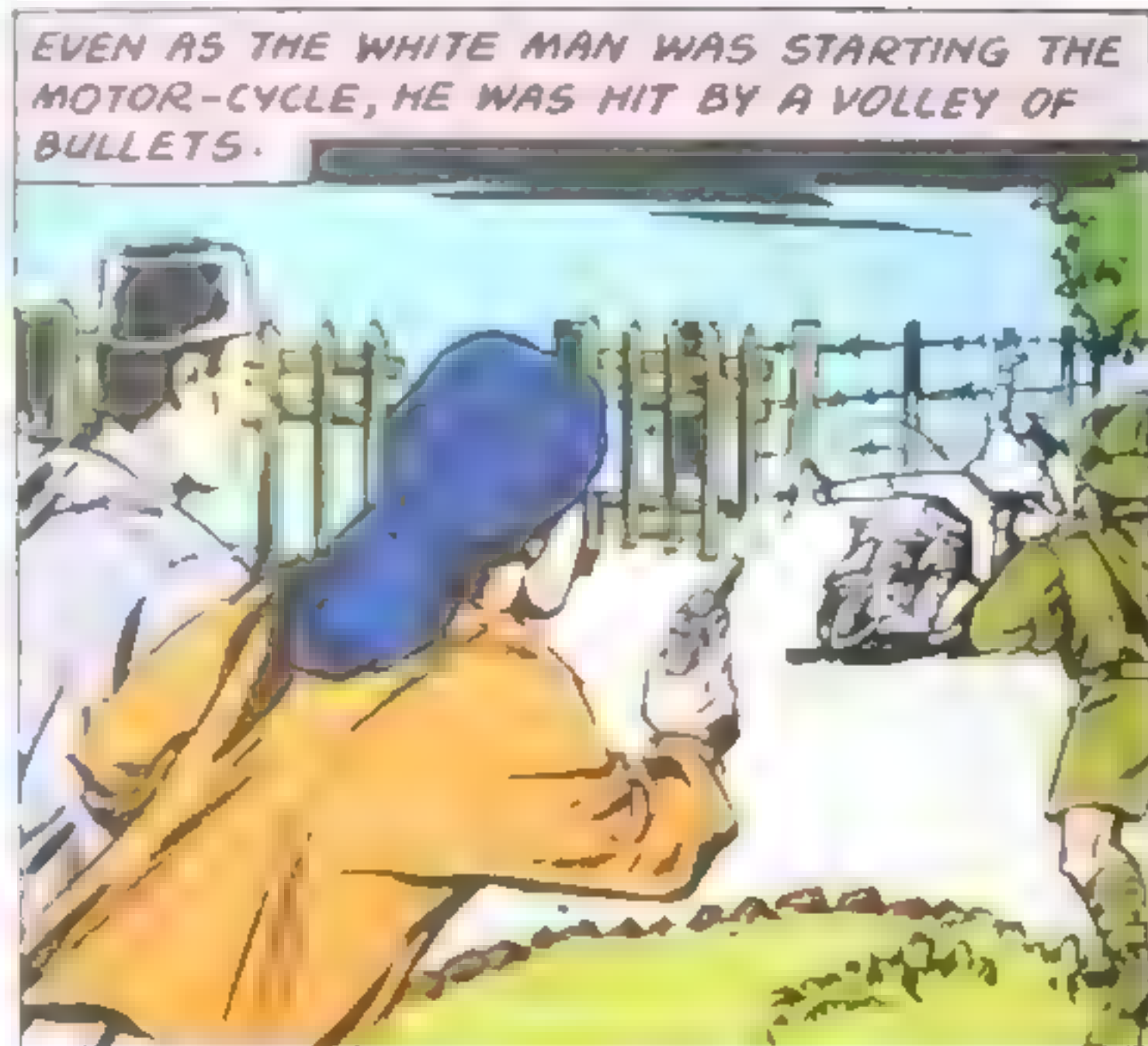
JAIGOPAL WILL SIGNAL TO US AS SOON AS SCOTT COMES OUT.

JAIGOPAL WHO HAD STATIONED HIMSELF JUST OPPOSITE THE POLICE STATION WAS PRETENDING TO REPAIR HIS BICYCLE.



LOOK! THAT OFFICER IS WALKING TOWARDS THE MOTOR-CYCLE. IS HE SCOTT?





AS BHAGAT SINGH AND RAJGURU RAN TOWARDS THE D.A.V. COLLEGE JUST OPPOSITE THE POLICE STATION, THEY WERE CHASED BY A POLICE CONSTABLE.



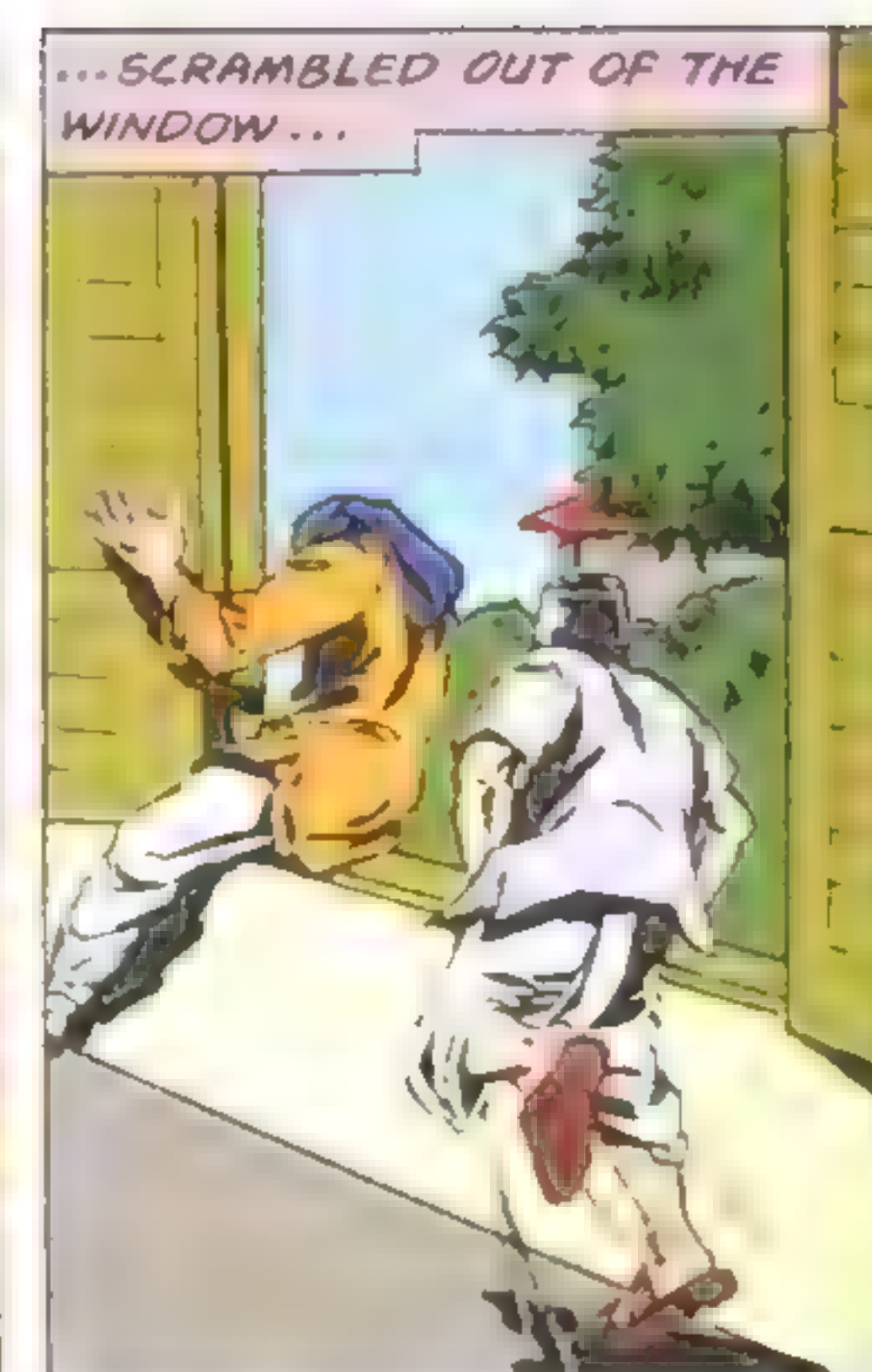
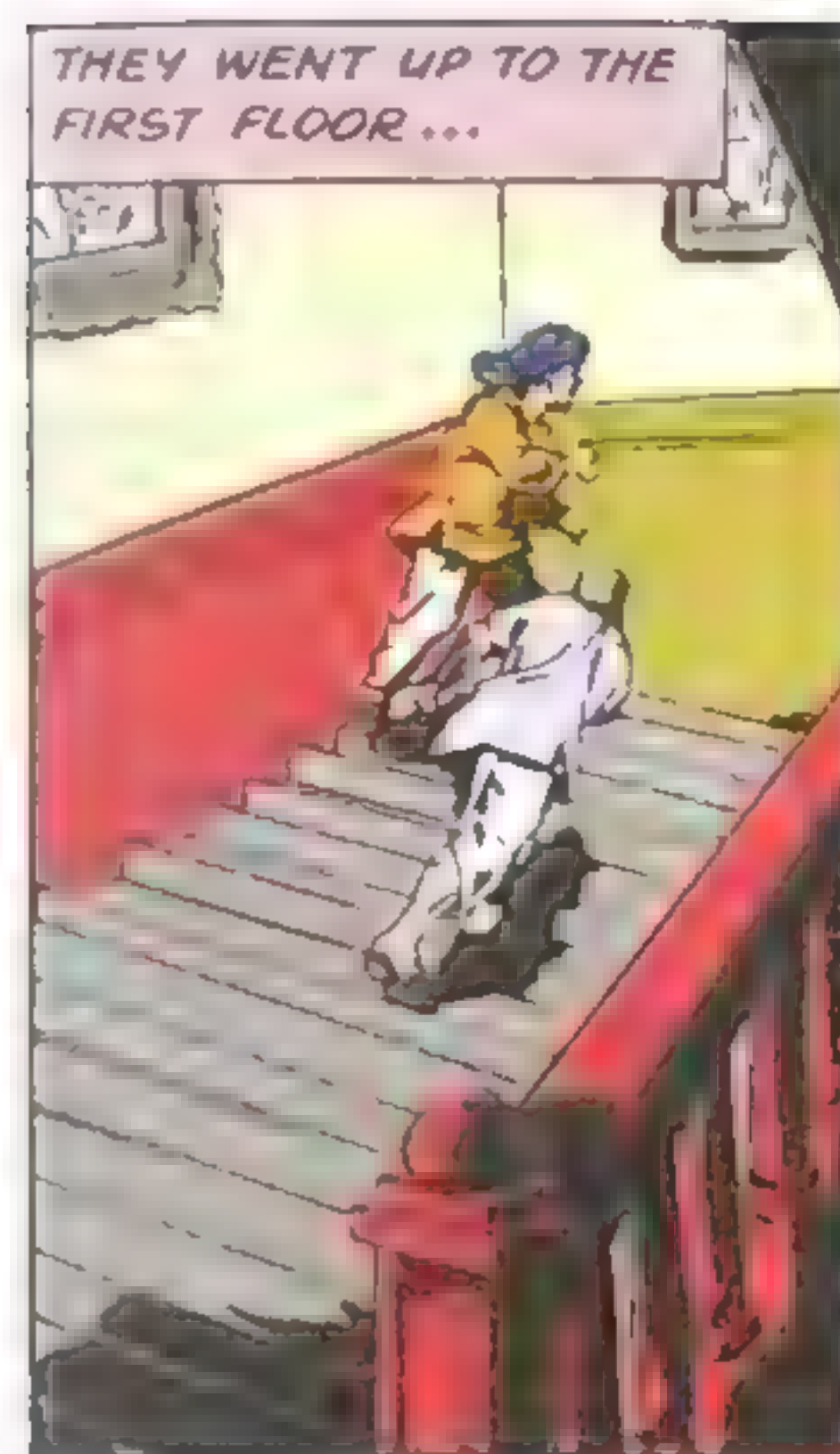
AZAD DID NOT FAIL THEM. HE WAS READY.



THE CONSTABLE IGNORED THE WARNING AND PAID FOR IT WITH HIS LIFE.



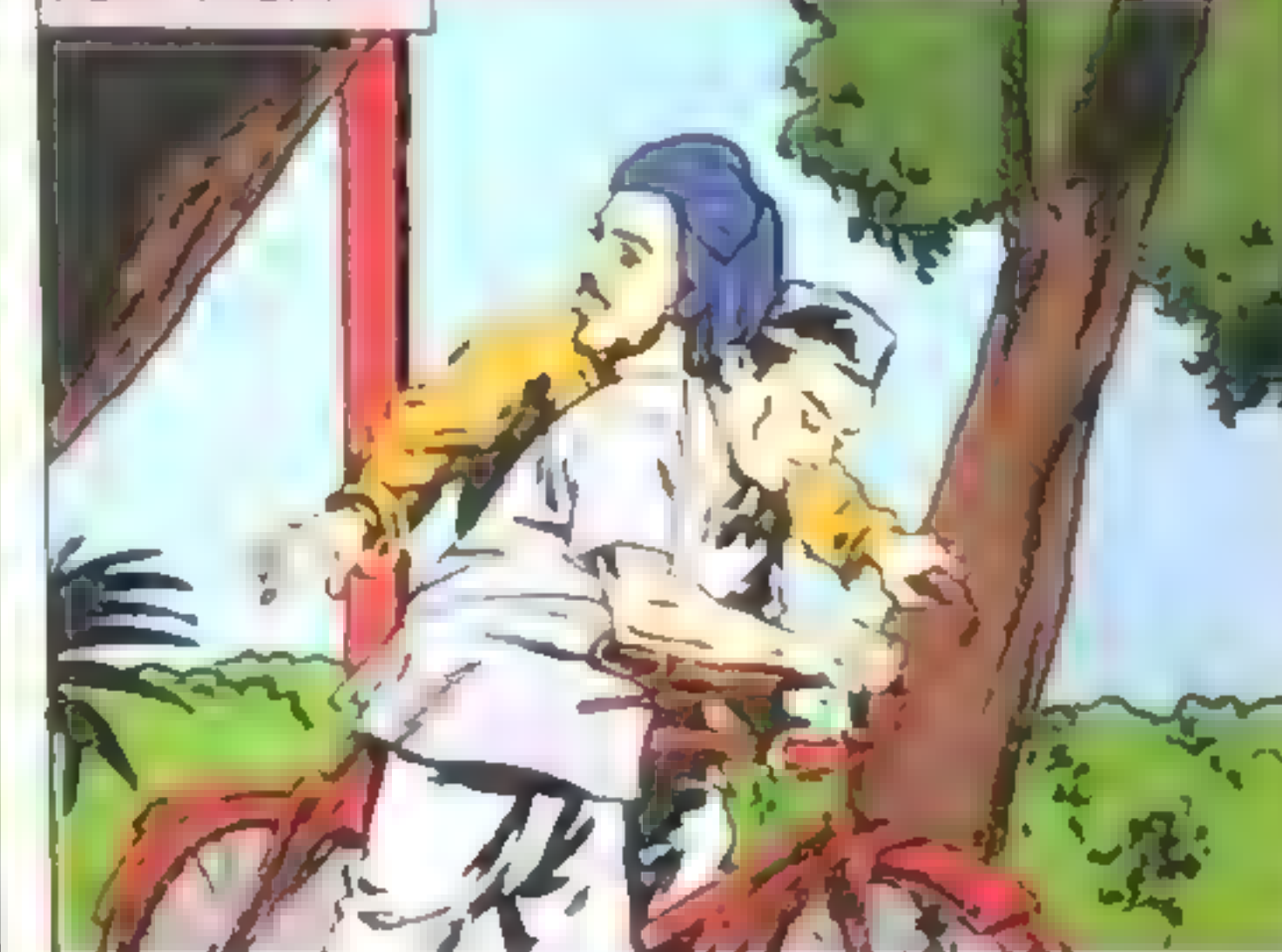
MEANWHILE, BHAGAT SINGH AND RAJGURU HAD REACHED THE QUADRANGLE OF THE COLLEGE.



... SLITHERED DOWN A WATER-PIPE AND...



... MOUNTING THE BICYCLE LEFT THERE FOR THEM..



... GOT AWAY.

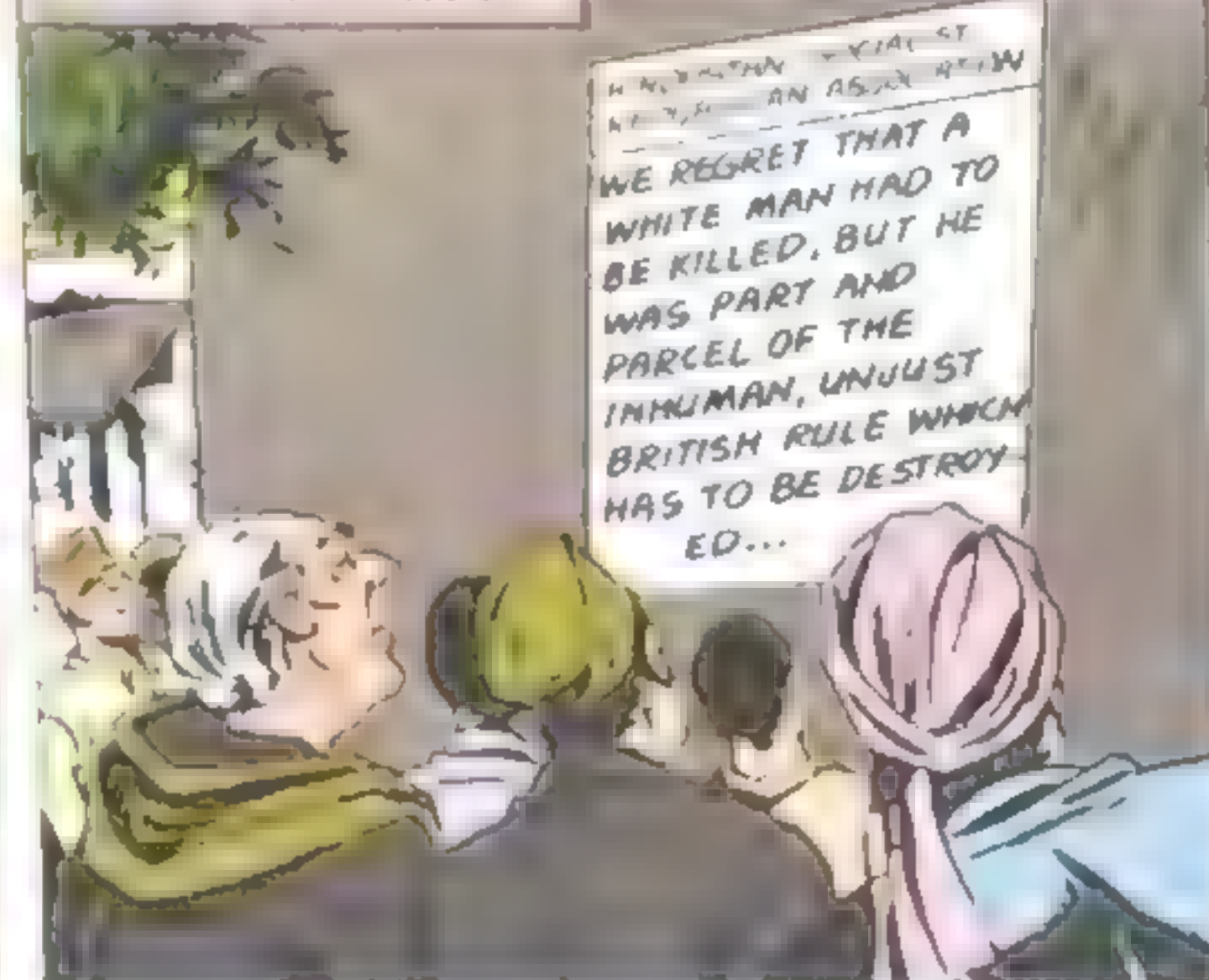




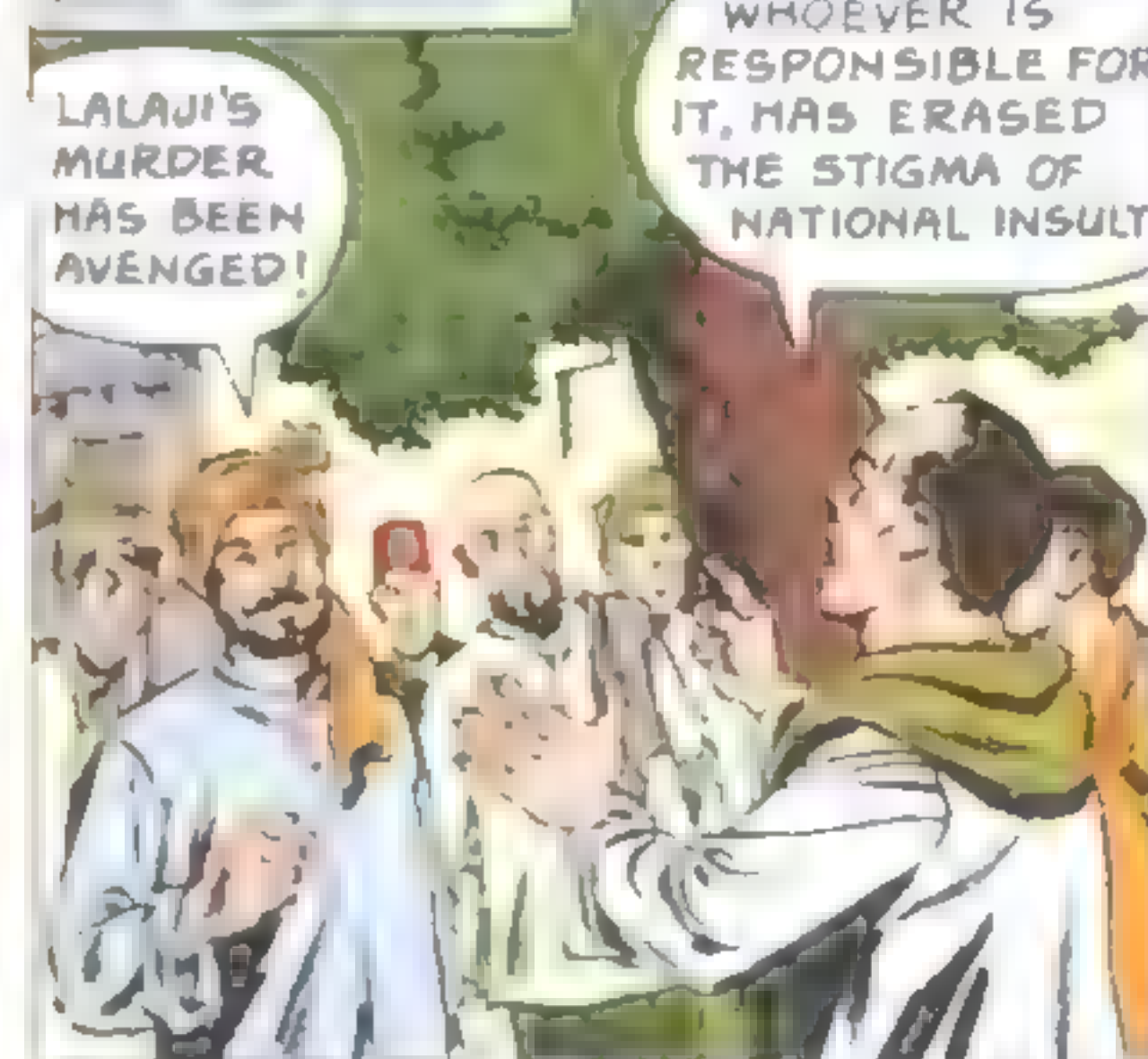
LATER, THEY REALISED THAT THE MAN THEY HAD KILLED WAS SAUNDERS, THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE AND NOT



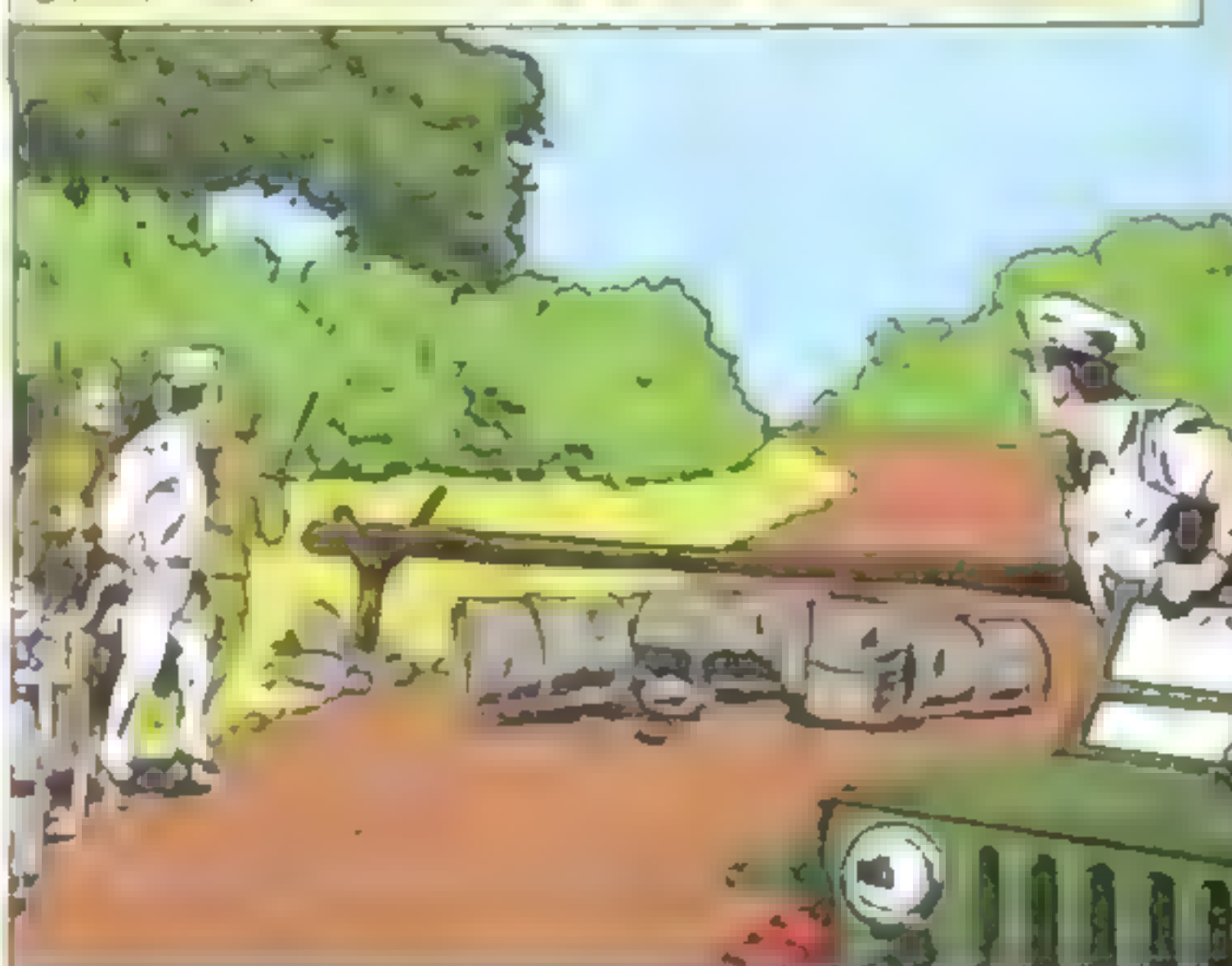
ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, NOTICES APPEARED ALL OVER THE CITY.



THE WHOLE OF THE PUNJAB RESOUNDED WITH THE NEWS



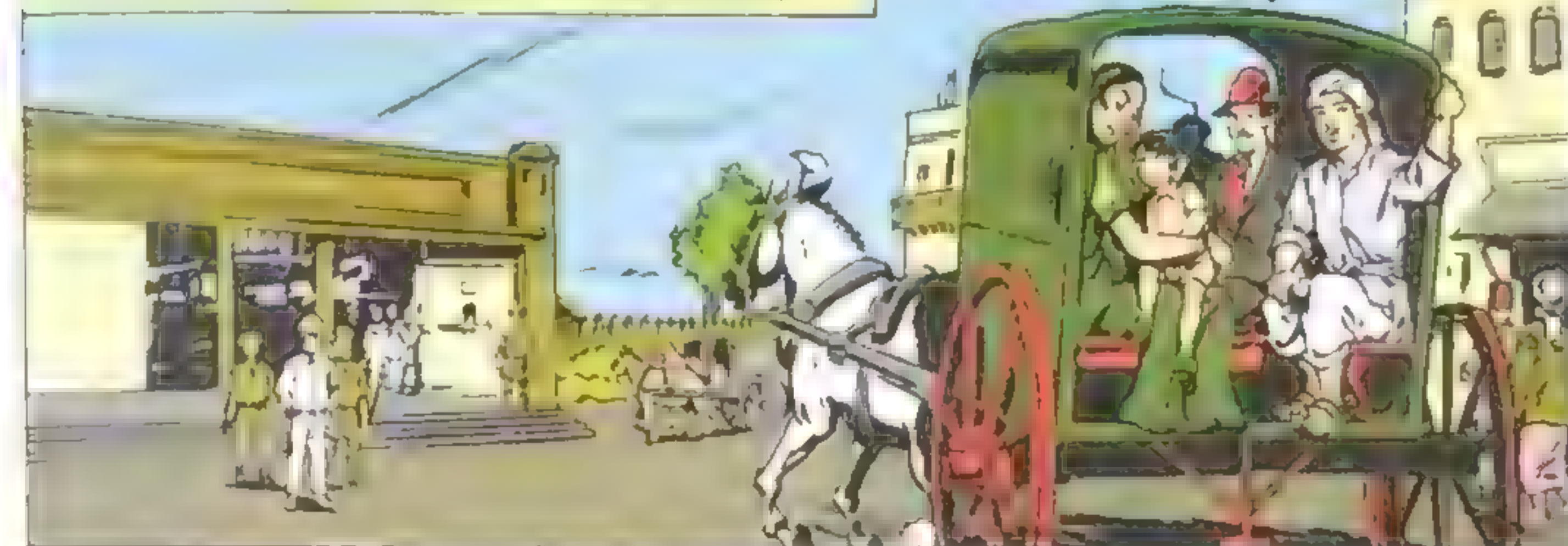
MEANWHILE, POLICE GUARDS KEPT WATCH OVER ALL ROADS LEADING OUT OF LAHORE...



...AS WELL AS AT THE RAILWAY STATION.



AS THE ATTENTION OF THE POLICE WAS FOCUSED ON THOSE WHO WERE TRAVELLING ALONE, THEY HARDLY NOTICED THE TONGA WHICH BROUGHT A PROSPEROUS LOOKING FAMILY TO THE STATION.



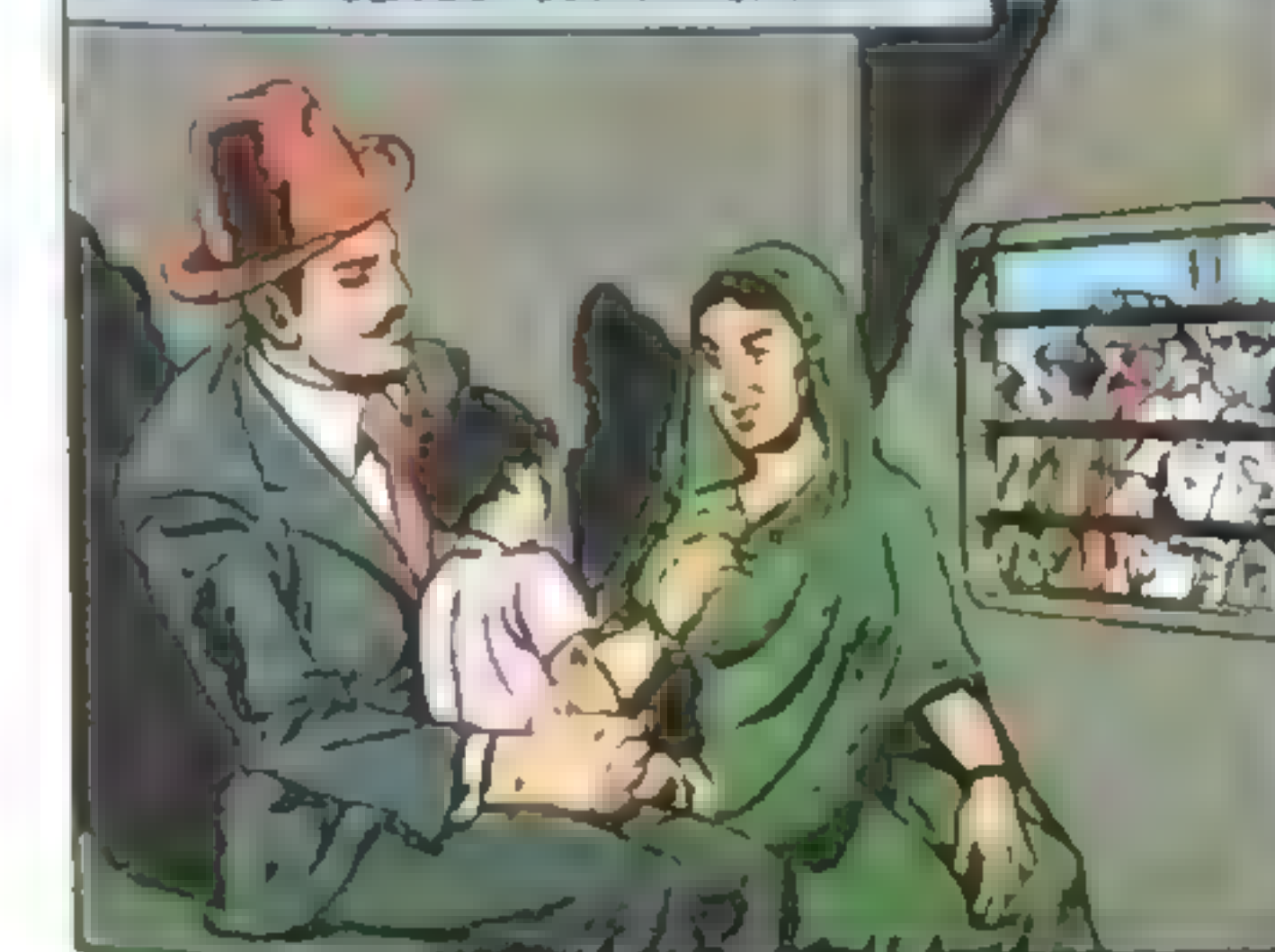
THE ELEGANTLY DRESSED SAHIB WALKED UP TO THE BOOKING OFFICE WINDOW. HIS WIFE AND CHILD AND A SERVANT FOLLOWED.



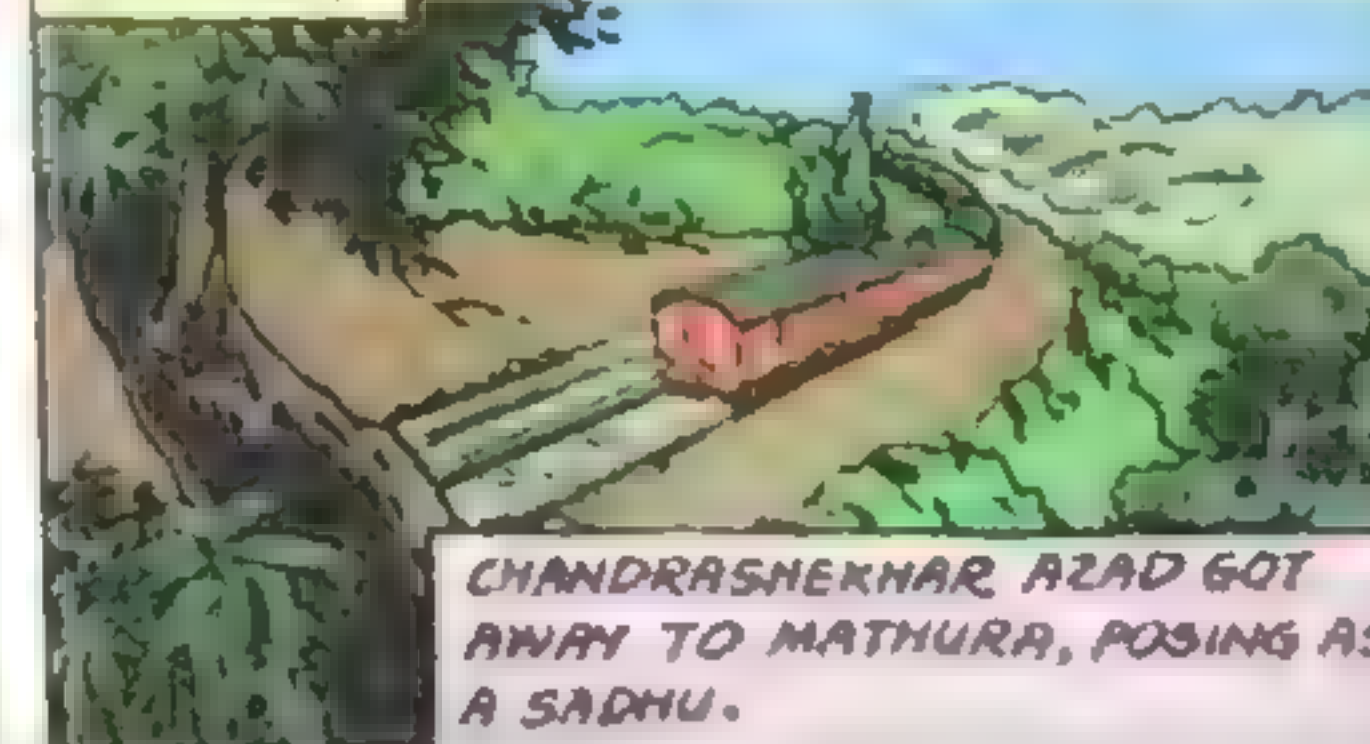
THE SAHIB BOUGHT THE TICKETS AND THE POLICE LET THE PARTY ENTER THE PLATFORM.



THE SAHIB AND HIS WIFE BOARDED A FIRST CLASS COMPARTMENT, AND THE SERVANT, A THIRD CLASS COMPARTMENT.



THE BIRDS HAD FLOWN! THE SAHIB WAS NONE OTHER THAN BHAGAT SINGH WHO HAD SHAVED OFF HIS BEARD TO AVOID DETECTION; THE WOMAN WHO POSED AS HIS WIFE WAS DURGA BHABHI, THE WIFE OF A REVOLUTIONARY, BHAGWATI CHARAN; AND THE MAN WHO ACCOMPANIED THEM AS THEIR SERVANT WAS RAJGURU!



CHANDRASHEKHAR AZAD GOT AWAY TO MATHURA, POSING AS A SADHU.



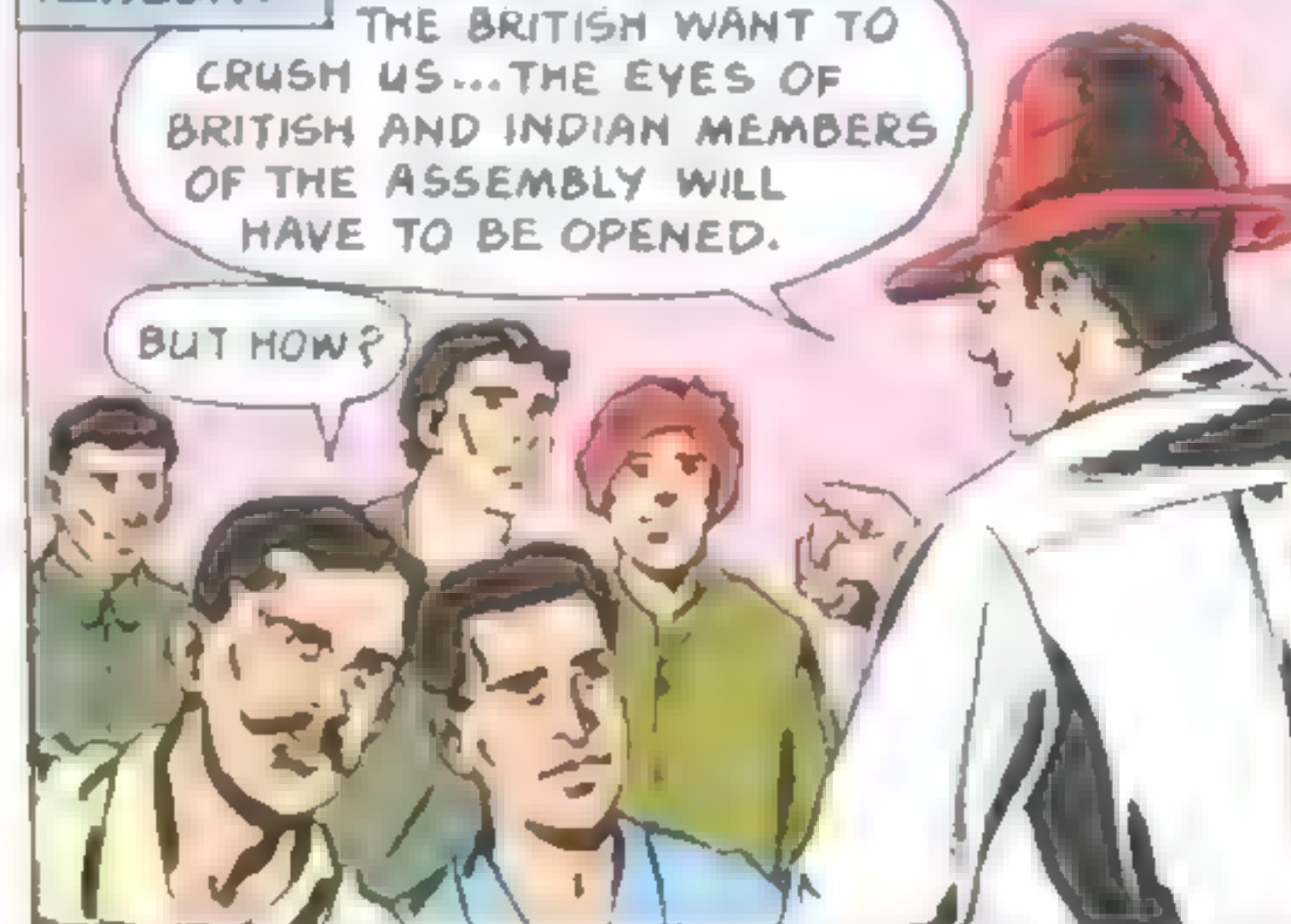
BHAGAT SINGH MEANWHILE HAD TRAVELLED EASTWARDS TO CALCUTTA. THERE HE MET JATIN DAS, A REVOLUTIONARY.



LATER, A BOMB MANUFACTURING CENTRE WAS OPENED IN AGRA. AT A MEETING HELD THERE, THE REVOLUTIONARIES DISCUSSED THEIR FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION.



THESE BILLS WERE MEANT TO SUPPRESS THE LABOUR CLASS AND EMPOWERED THE GOVERNMENT TO JAIL ANYONE WITHOUT GIVING A REASON.



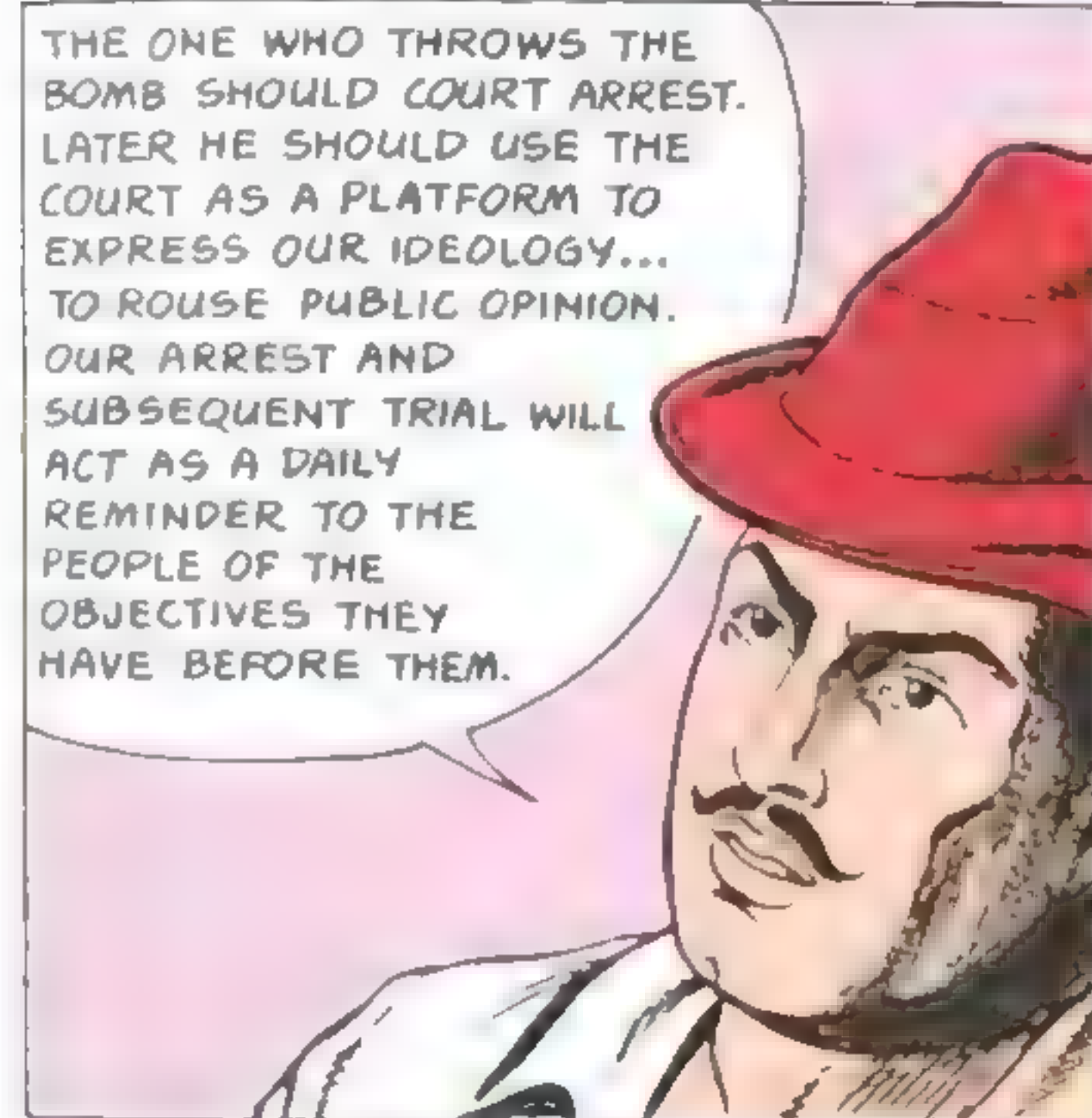
THE DAY THE BILL IS INTRODUCED, BOMBS SHOULD BE THROWN. WE WILL MAKE A NOISE LOUD ENOUGH TO BE HEARD BY THE DEAF.



A GOOD IDEA! BUT MAKE SURE THAT THE BOMB HURTS NOBODY. WE MUST MAKE PLANS TO ENTER THE ASSEMBLY, THROW THE BOMB AND ESCAPE...



THE ONE WHO THROWS THE BOMB SHOULD COURT ARREST. LATER HE SHOULD USE THE COURT AS A PLATFORM TO EXPRESS OUR IDEOLOGY... TO ROUSE PUBLIC OPINION. OUR ARREST AND SUBSEQUENT TRIAL WILL ACT AS A DAILY REMINDER TO THE PEOPLE OF THE OBJECTIVES THEY HAVE BEFORE THEM.



SO ON APRIL 8, 1929 WHEN THE CENTRAL ASSEMBLY MET TO DISCUSS THE BILLS, BHAGAT SINGH AND HIS COMPANION, BATUKESHWAR DUTT, STOOD UP IN THE VISITORS' GALLERY.



THE BOMB WAS THROWN. IT HURT NOBODY. SOME LEAFLETS TOO WERE THROWN.

THE TWO REVOLUTIONARIES CONTINUED TO SHOUT SLOGANS TILL THE POLICE CAME FOR THEM. THEY DID NOT RESIST ARREST.





BHAGAT SINGH AND DUTT WERE TAKEN TO THE POLICE STATION. ON THE WAY THEY PASSED THE TONGA CARRYING DURGA BHABHI, HER HUSBAND AND THEIR LITTLE SON.



LAMME CHACHA!



SH... SHACHI! DON'T CALL HIM.

LATER IN THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT, ASAF ALI, THE LAWYER, READ OUT THE STATEMENT PREPARED BY BHAGAT SINGH.

WE DROPPED THE BOMB ...TO REGISTER OUR PROTEST ON BEHALF OF THOSE WHO HAD NO OTHER MEANS LEFT TO GIVE EXPRESSION TO THEIR HEART-RENDING AGONY...



...OUR SOLE PURPOSE WAS TO MAKE THE DEAF HEAR AND GIVE THE HEEDLESS A TIMELY WARNING.

THE TWO REVOLUTIONARIES WERE SENTENCED TO TRANSPORTATION FOR LIFE. THEY FILED AN APPEAL IN THE HIGH COURT.

GENERAL DYER KILLED HUNDREDS OF PERSONS IN JALLIANWALLA BAGH. HE WAS GIVEN LAKHS OF RUPEES AS A REWARD BY HIS COUNTRYMEN.



IN CONTRAST, WE THROW A WEAK BOMB ENSURING THAT NO ONE IS HURT. WE ARE TRIED AND GIVEN A LIFE SENTENCE.



OUR MOTIVE WAS NOT TO KILL, BUT TO MAKE OUR IDEALS HEARD AND ACCEPTED.



AS EXPECTED, THE HIGH COURT UPHOLD THE JUDGEMENT OF THE SESSIONS COURT.

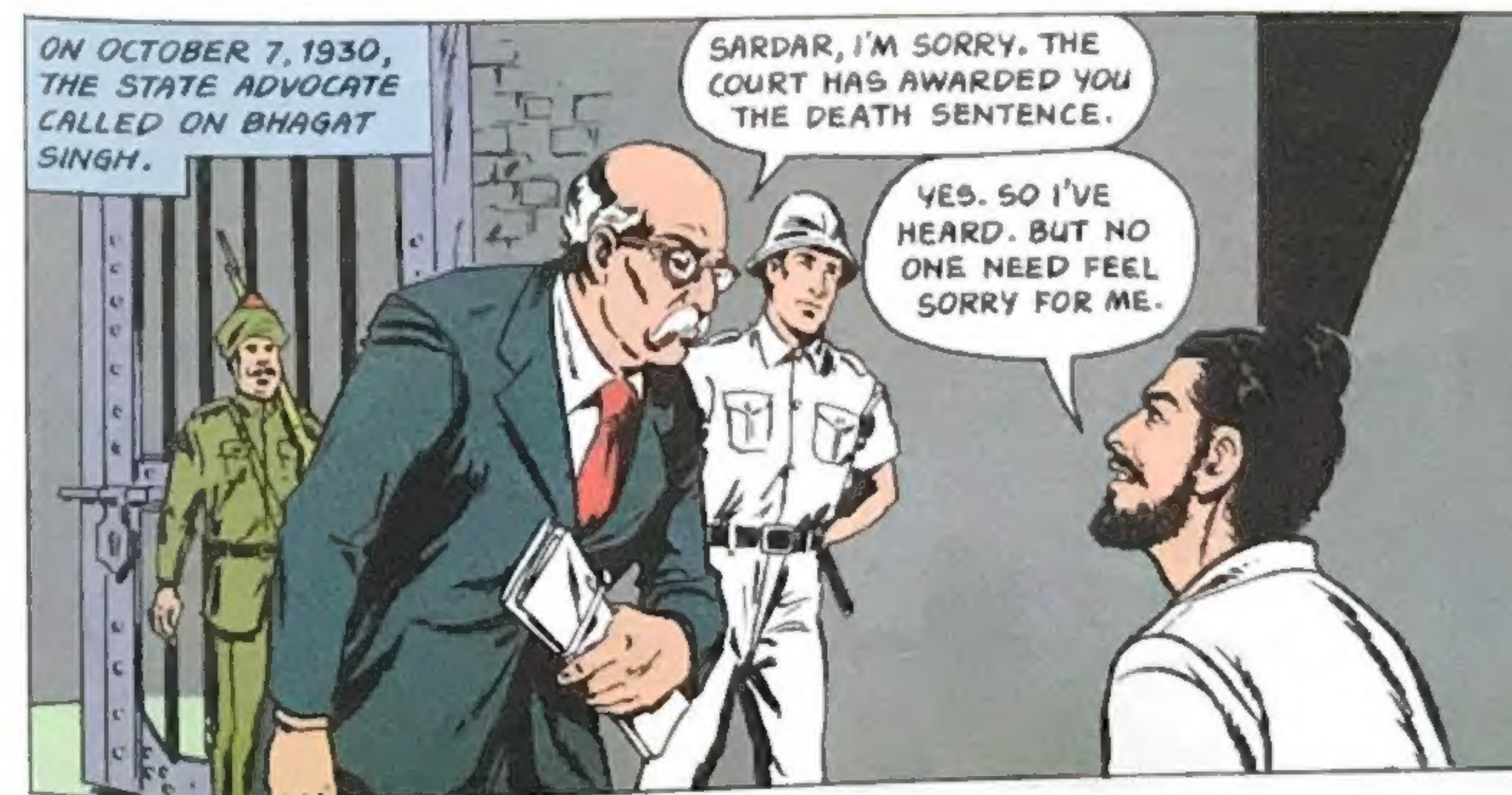
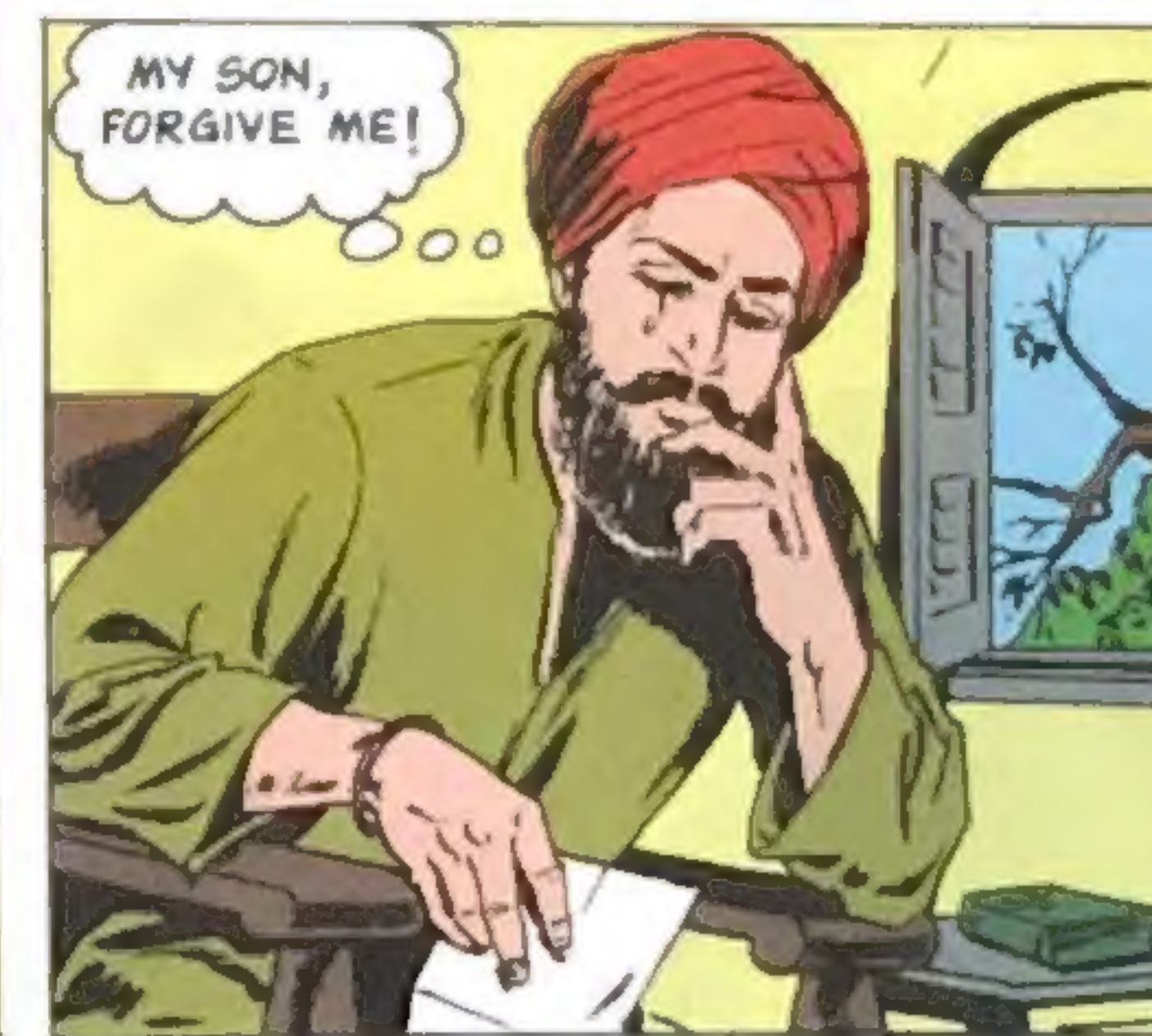
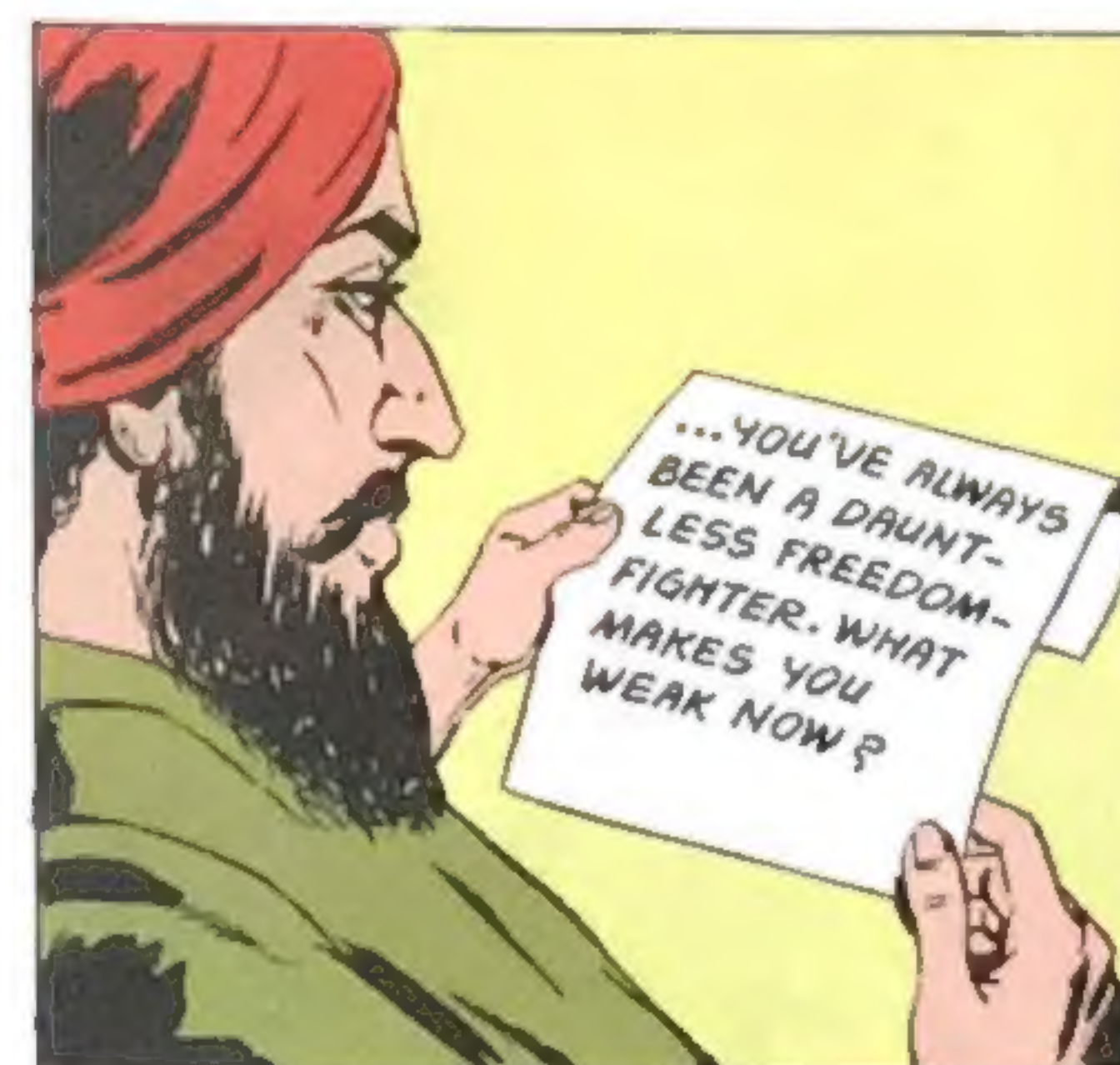
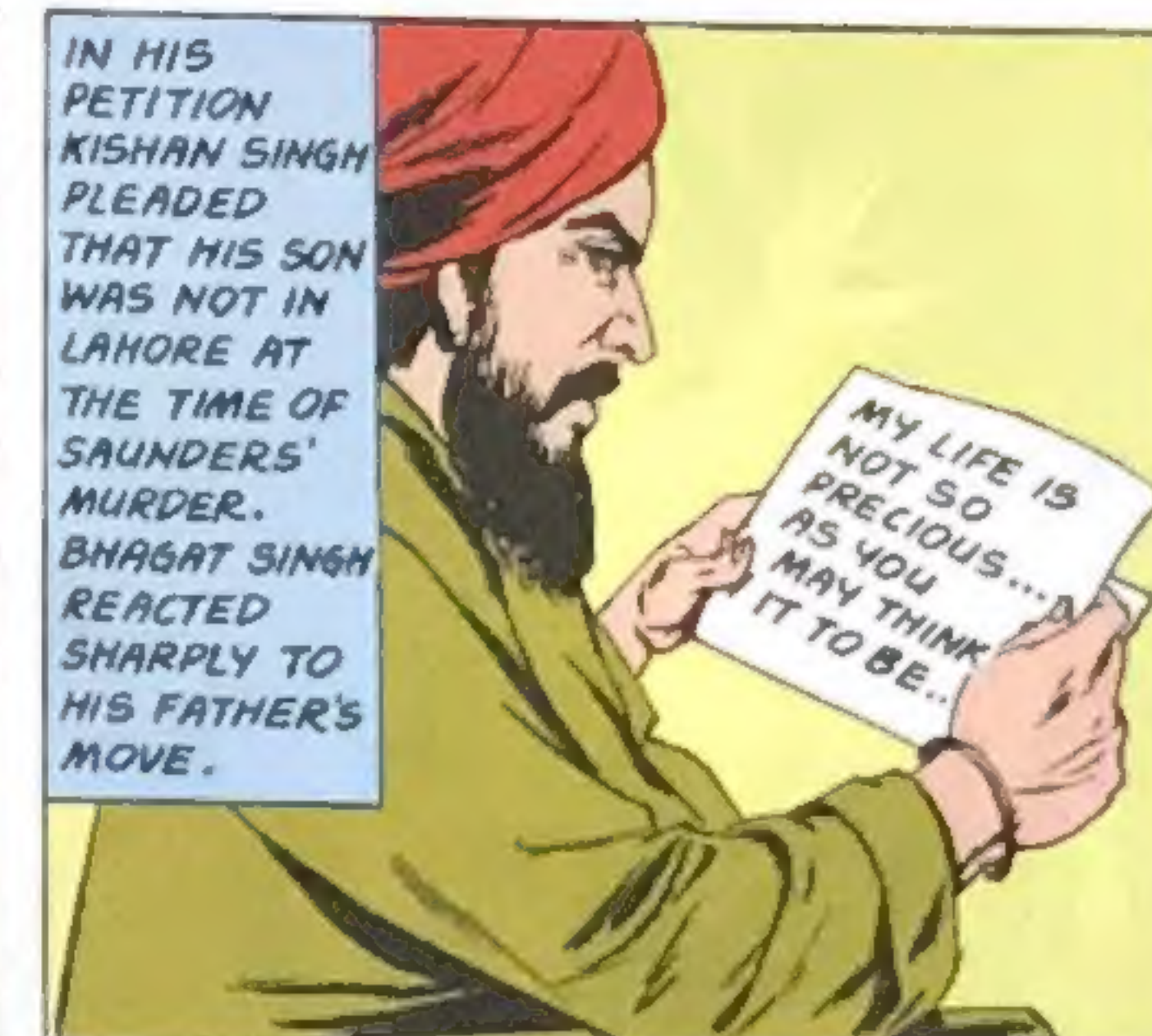
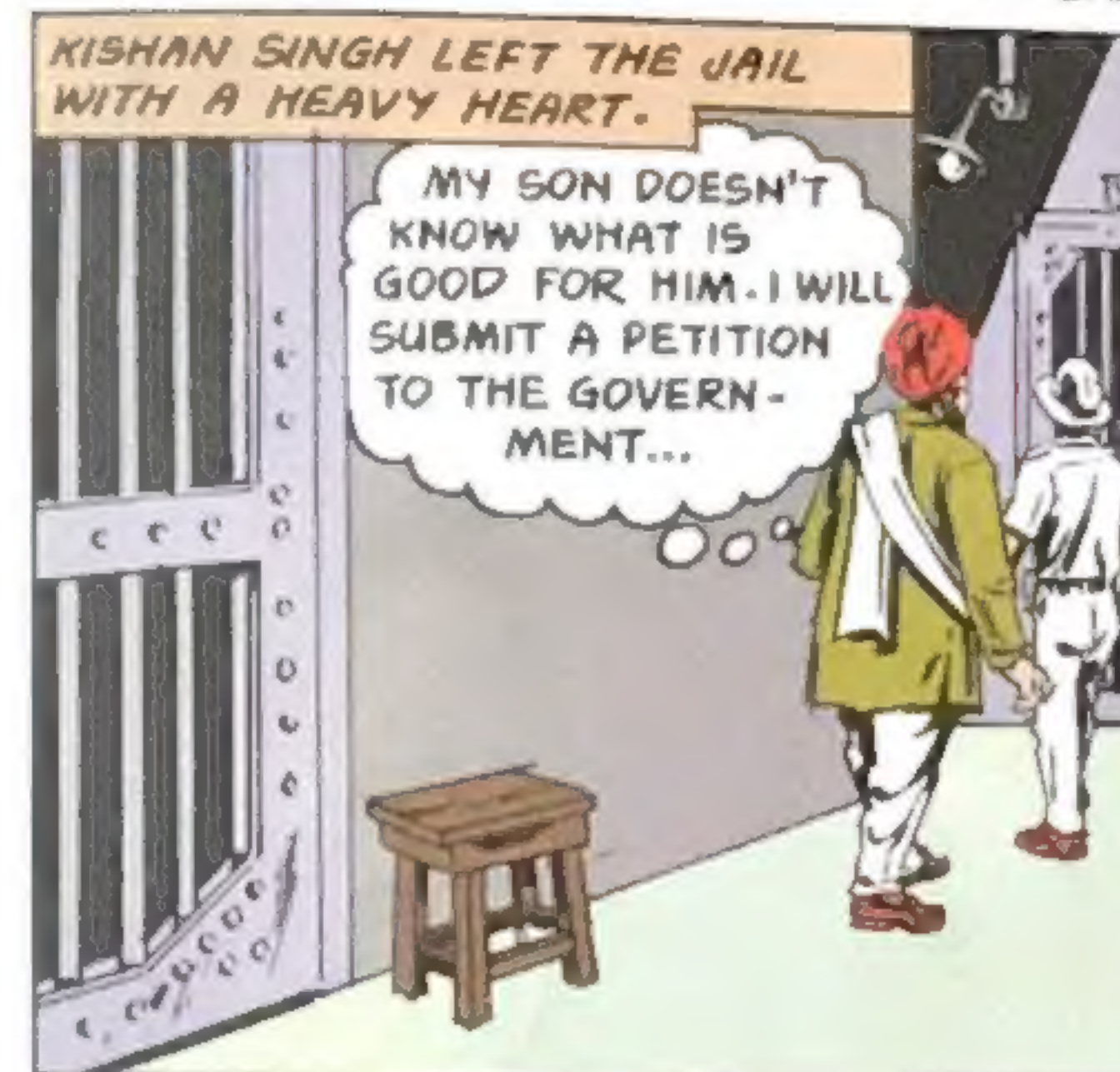
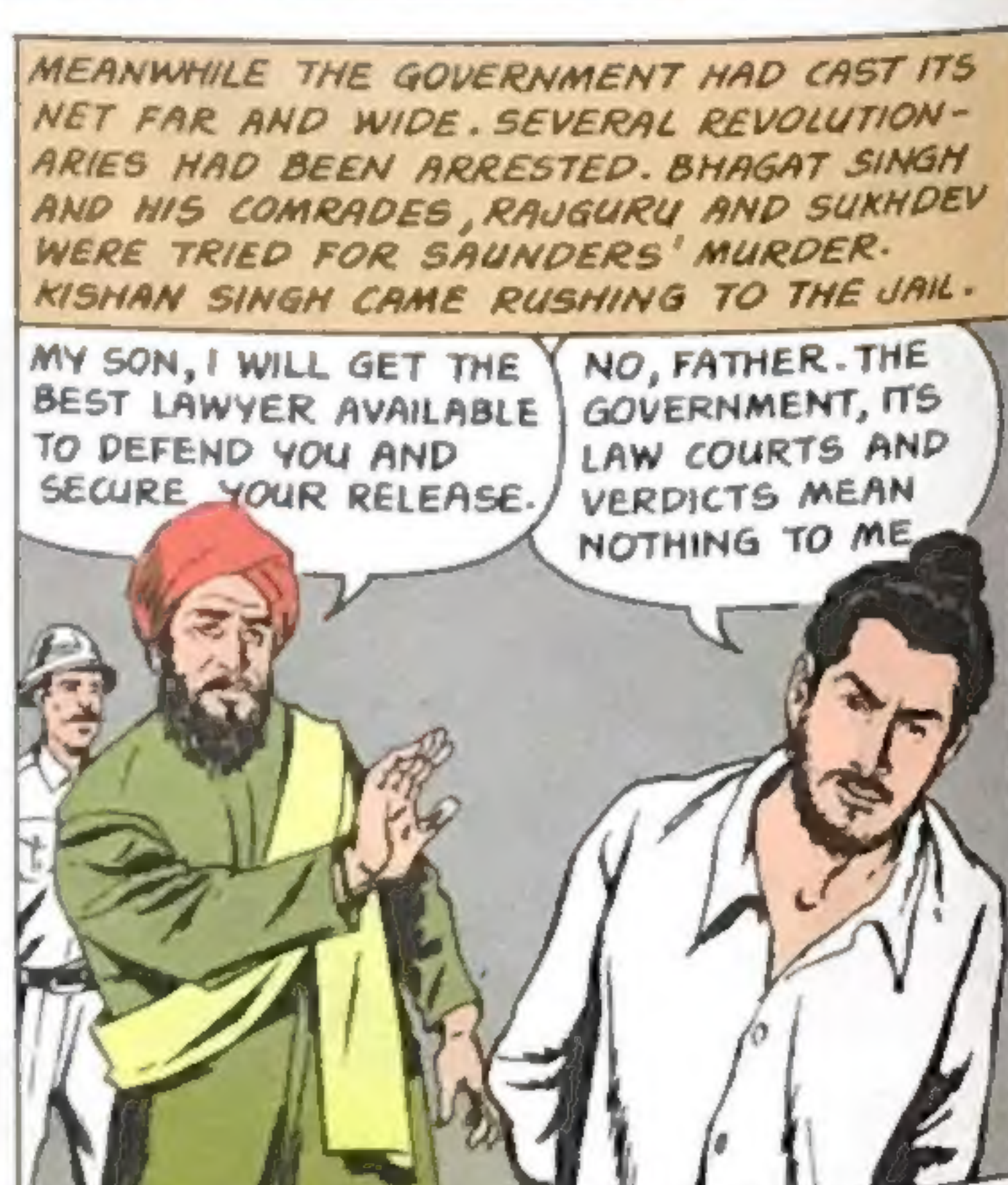
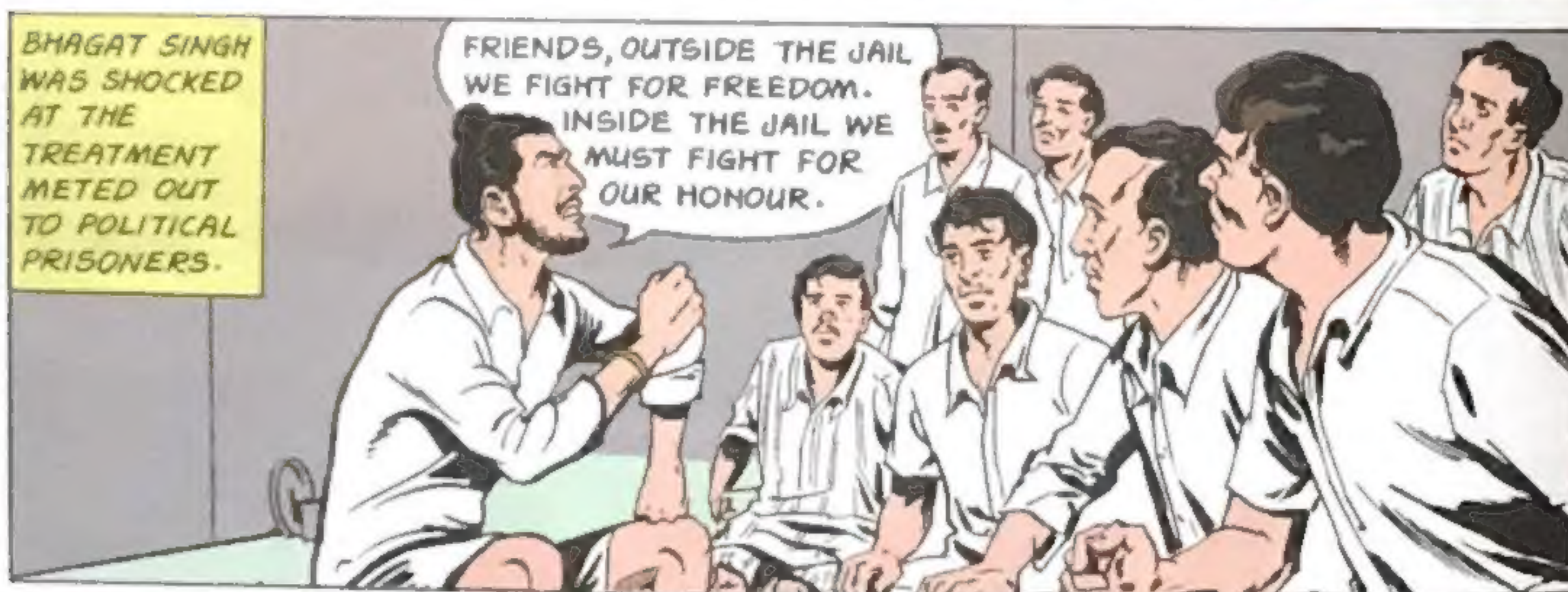
LATER BHAGAT SINGH WAS SHIFTED TO THE LAHORE CENTRAL JAIL.

I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOME BOOKS...

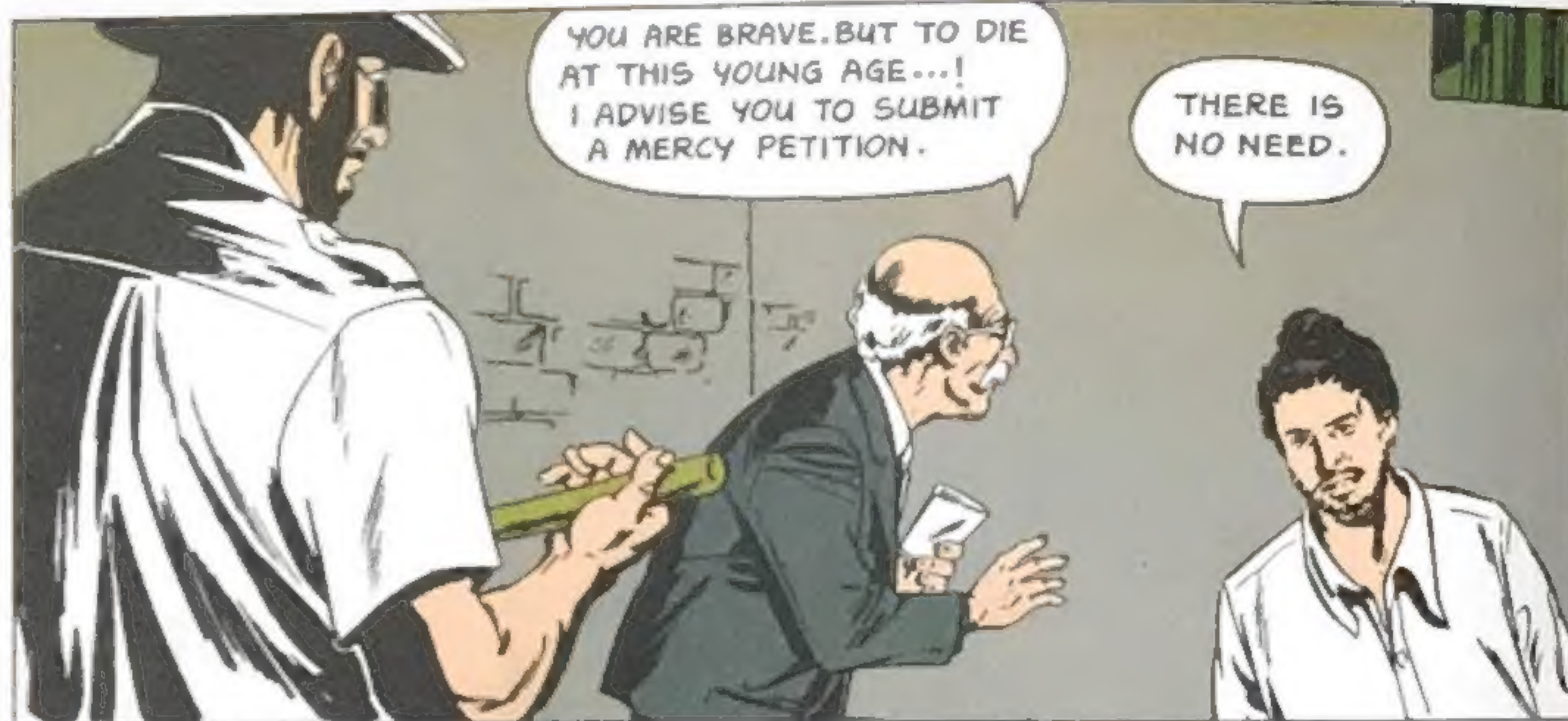


BOOKS? DO YOU THINK THIS IS A LIBRARY?





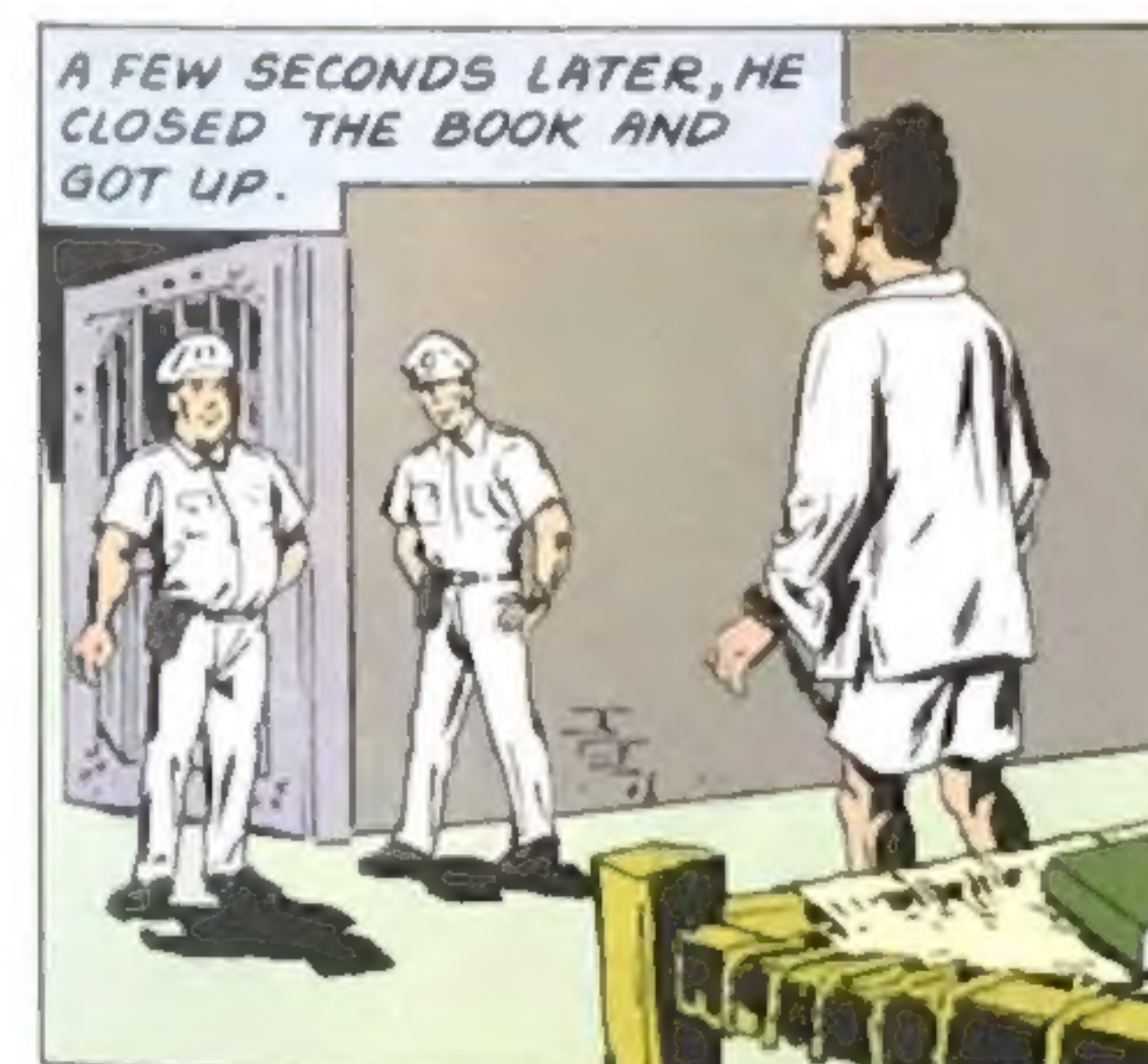
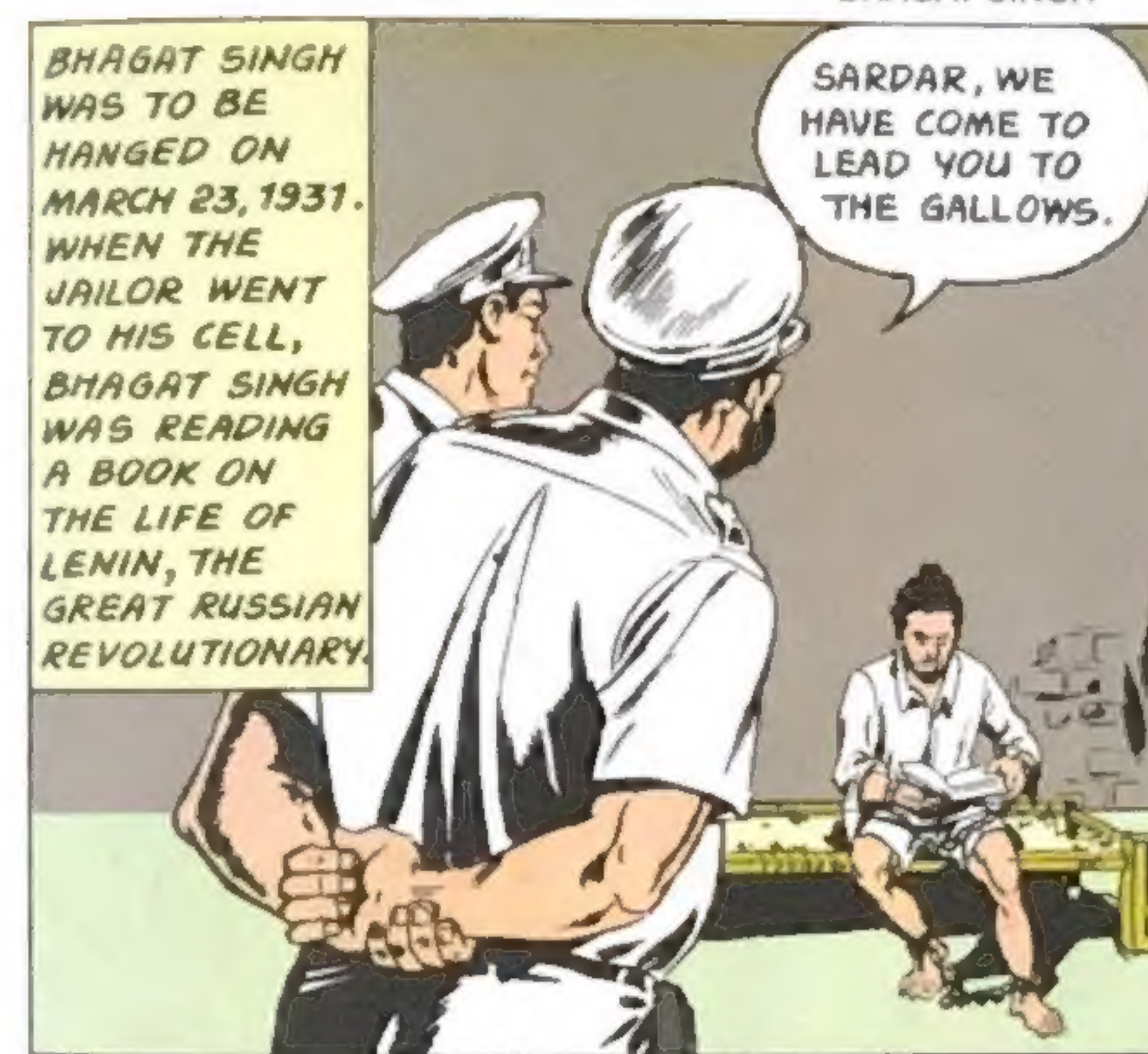




BHAGAT SINGH'S MOTHER, VIDYAVATI, WAS EQUALLY BRAVE. WHEN SHE MET HER SON IN JAIL —



BUT HIS YOUNGEST BROTHER, KULTAR SINGH, COULD NOT WITHHOLD HIS TEARS. LATER, BHAGAT SINGH WROTE HIM A LETTER.

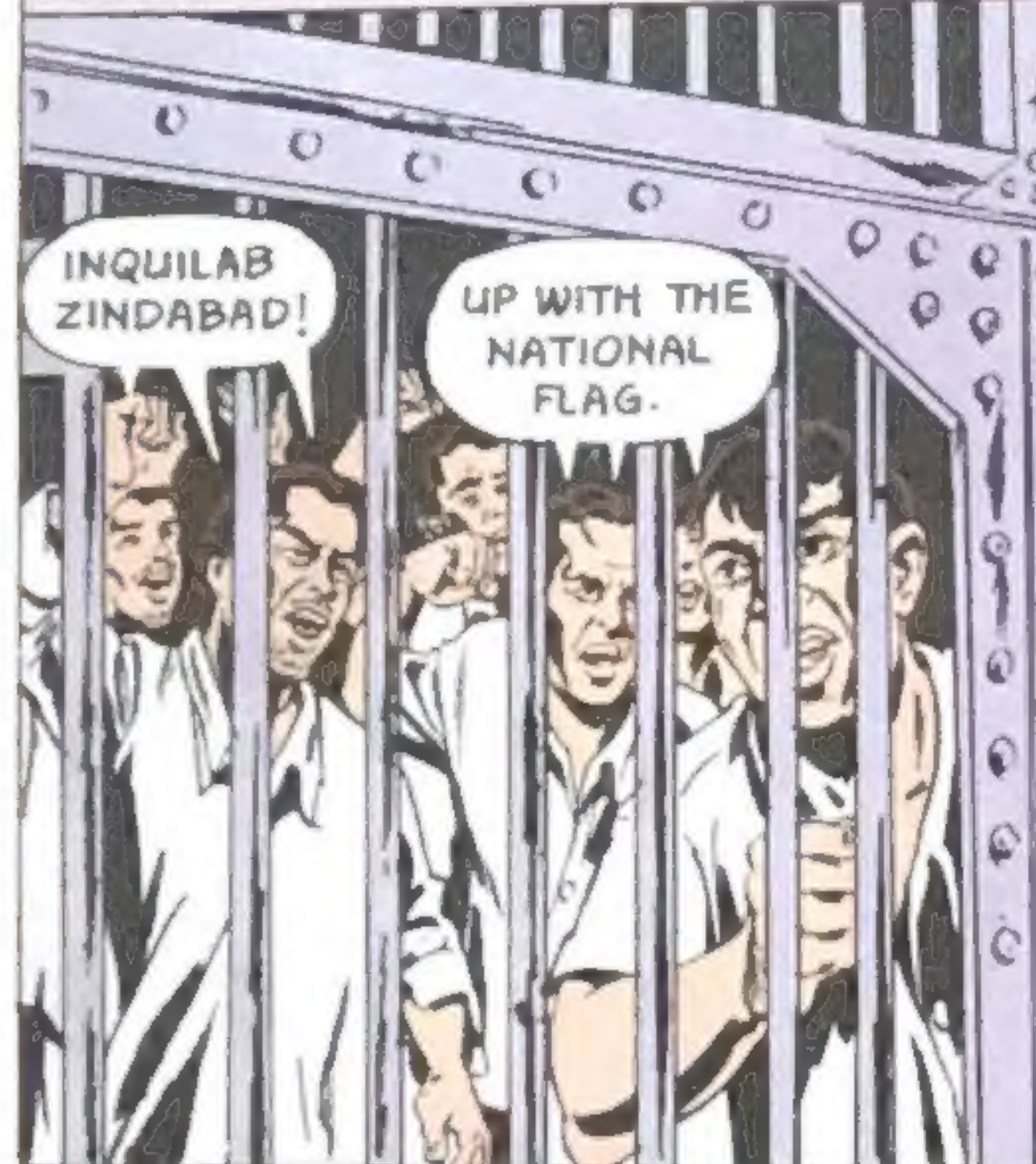


SUKHDEV AND RAJGURU WERE BROUGHT FROM THEIR CELLS. AT 7-00 P.M. THE LAST JOURNEY BEGAN. BHAGAT SINGH BURST INTO SONG.





HEARING THE SONG, OTHER PRISONERS IN THE JAIL RAISED PATRIOTIC CRIES.



THE THREE REVOLUTIONARIES MARCHED UP TO THE GALLOWS, WATCHED BY THE OFFICIALS. THEN BHAGAT SINGH TURNED TO THE BRITISH DEPUTY COMMISSIONER.

WELL, MR. MAGISTRATE, YOU ARE LUCKY. TODAY YOU SHALL SEE HOW INDIANS EMBRACE DEATH WITH PLEASURE FOR THE SAKE OF THEIR SUPREME IDEAL.



THEN THE LAHORE JAIL RE-SOUNDED WITH A POWERFUL CRY—

INQUILAB ZINDABAD!



THE VOICE WAS STILLED FOR A MOMENT WHEN THE HANGMAN PULLED THE ROPE. BUT THE CRY WAS TAKEN UP BY MILLIONS OF INDIANS.



"THE LESSON WHICH WE SHOULD LEARN FROM BHAGAT SINGH IS TO DIE IN A MANLY AND BOLD MANNER SO THAT INDIA MIGHT LIVE," WROTE JAWAHARLAL NEHRU OF THIS VALIANT YOUNG MARTYR.



राम ब्रह्म व्यापक जगजाना।  
परमानंद परेस पुराना॥



# Tulsidas' Rām Chārīt Mānās

It brought Ramayana to the masses



Read the story in Amar Chitra Katha